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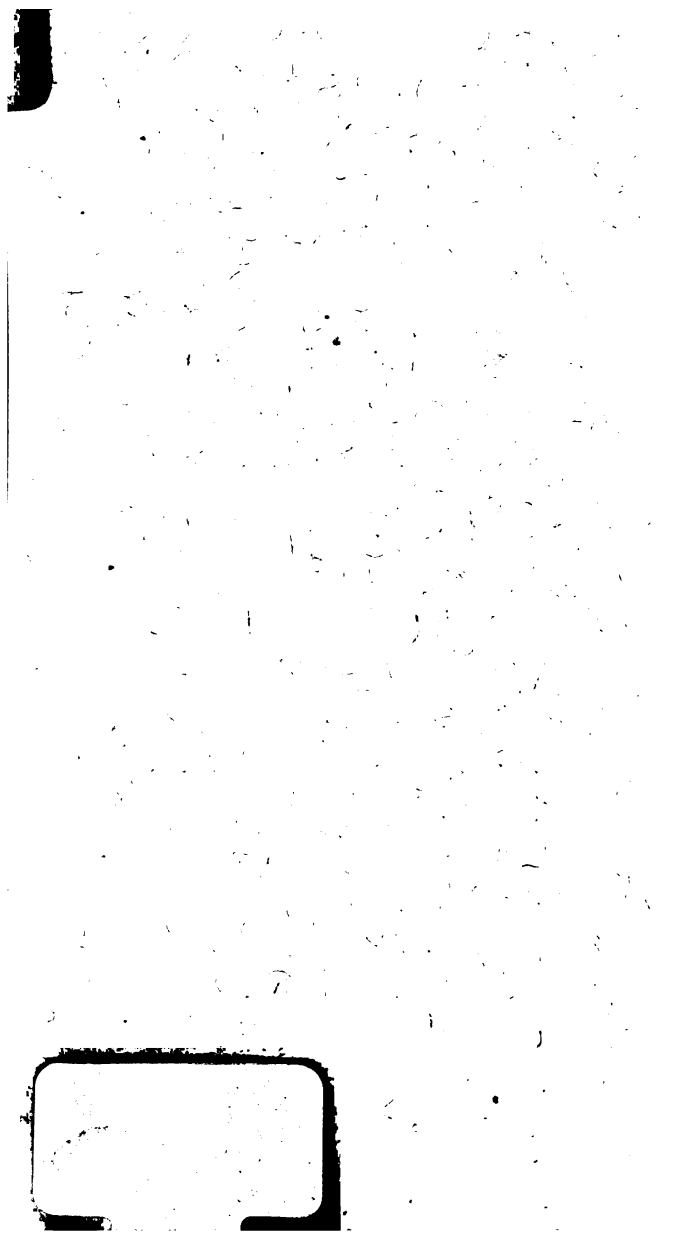
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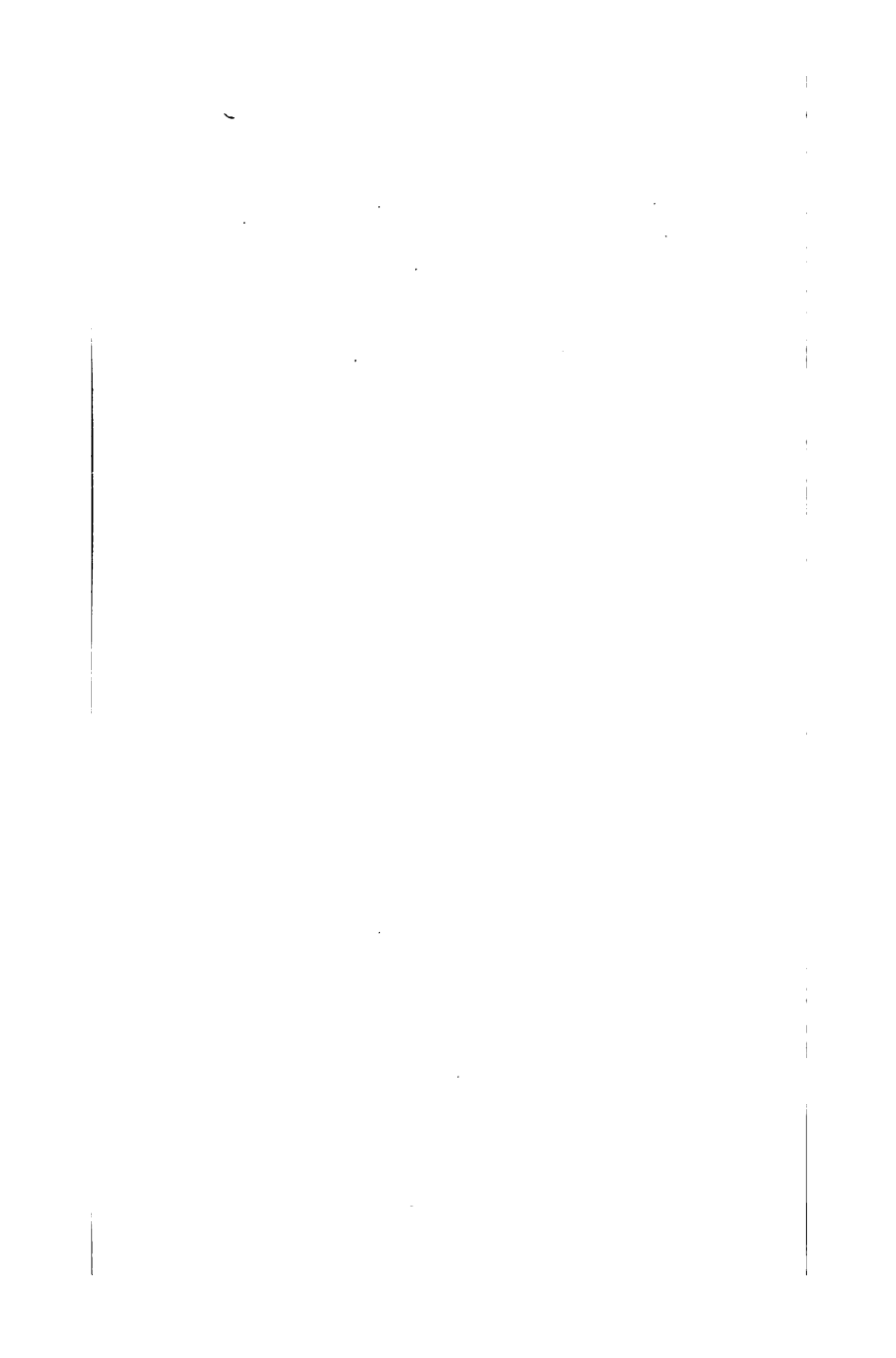
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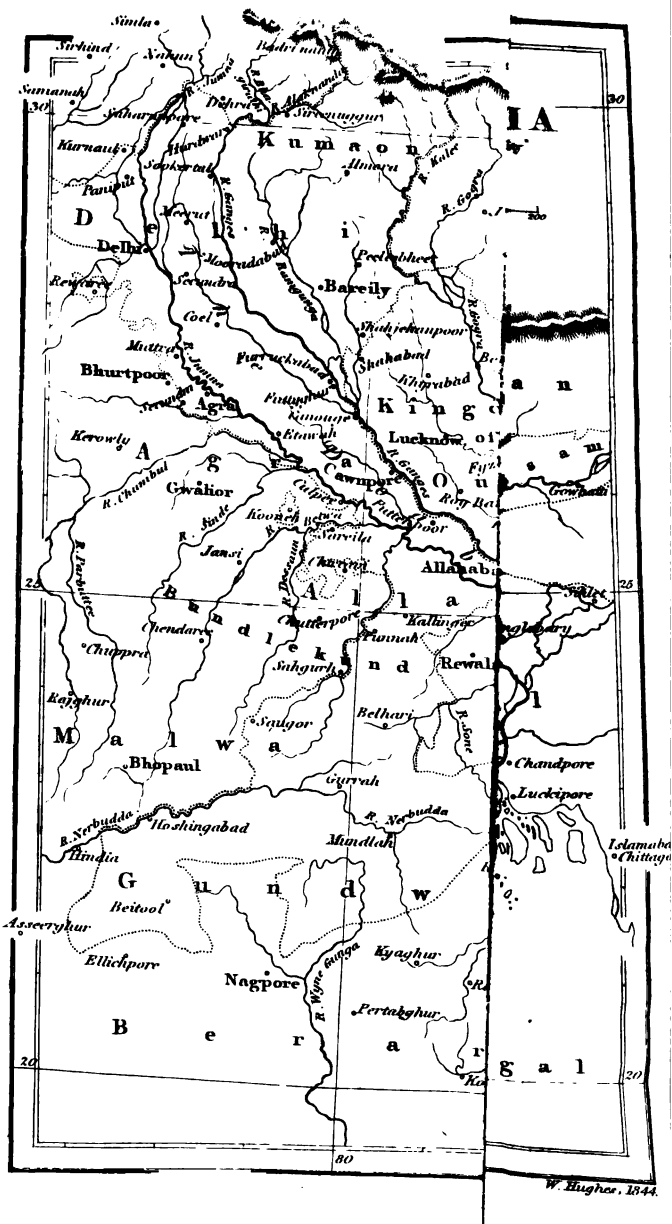






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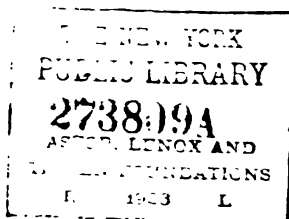
SKETCHES OF CHRISTIANITY
IN NORTH INDIA.

ed. 1841
BY THE REV. M. WILKINSON:
MISSIONARY.

"HER REPORT HATH TRAVELLED FORTH INTO ALL LANDS."
"THE COMING OF THE LORD DRAWETH NIGH."
"EVEN SO COME, LORD JESUS, COME QUICKLY."

SEELEY, BURNSIDE, AND SEELEY,
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PREFACE.

OVER the continent of India, teeming with beings, whose destinies for eternity roll on with the stream of time, the Christian philanthropist has long cast his eye ; and with an intensity of interest known to him who has felt the value of a Saviour, watched the united efforts of the Christian Church to arrest the abominations of idolatry, and witnessed with concern the zeal and life of missionaries, together with the funds of benevolence, poured out on the altar of faith, without producing those results which anticipation in the fulfilment of Prophecy delighted to recognize as near at hand.

That, however, which the mere politician and sceptic would denominate a failure, is nothing more than the barrenness of the ground between the period of sowing and that of germination, and cannot, by the servants of the blessed Jesus, be regarded as the sterility of the soil. Holy men of God, and full of faith, like Brown, Martyn, Corrie, and Thomason, &c., have cast in the seed,

and entered into rest, in the sure and certain hope, that the period shall arrive, when sower and reaper shall rejoice together, bringing their sheaves with them.

Others are now humbly following in their track, and, though the season of sowing is not yet past, they are occasionally delighted to see, here and there, an *oasis* rising up in the moral desert (surely indicating the approach of Messiah's reign), and which shall encroach on the surrounding wastes, till the wilderness shall blossom as the rose, and the desert sing for joy. For Jehovah hath said it, that "As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater ;—so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth : it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isa. v. 10.) The Lord hasten it in its time !



CONTENTS.

A. D.		PAGE
1706.	Frederick, King of Denmark sends B. Ziegenbalg and H. Plutcho, Missionaries to Tranquebar	2
1716.	Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge sends them assistance	3
1728.	The Society sends J. F. Kiernander to Cudalore ...	3
1758.	Mr. Kiernander goes to Calcutta	4
	The first Church built in 1715	5
	The Mission School opened	7
1768.	P. F. Bento de Silvestre renounces Romish errors,	14
1769.	Rev. Mansol Joze da Costa arrives	14
	An account of his life	15
1771.	Mr. Da Costa dies	17
	Mr. Bento de Silvestre appointed catechist	17
	Captain John Griffin dies	18
	Famine in Bengal	19
	Mission Church completed	19
1772.	Francis Joseph Hanson renounces popery	21
1775.	Rev. John Christman Diemer arrives	24
	Ganeswan Dass baptized,	25
1783.	Mr. Diemer returns to Europe,	30
1787.	Mr. Kiernander goes to Chinsurah,	32
	Mr. Charles Grant,	38
	John Christian Obeck	39
1788.	Sir William Jones arrives and studies Sanscrit ...	41
	Moravians send Missionaries	44

A. D.		PAGE
1783.	Mr. John Thomas arrives in Calcutta,	44
	Military Orphan Asylum established	46
1786.	Rev. David Brown,	48
1787.	St. John's Church finished,	64
1792.	The Native Hospital founded,	75
1793.	The Mission Church enlarged,	79
1794.	Sir William Jones dies,	83
	Rev. Dr. Buchanan,	89
1796.	Appointed Chaplain by the East India Company, and arrives at Calcutta,	94
	Lord Mornington governor,	100
1800.	College of Fort William established,	106
	Mr. Obeck dies,	113
1803.	Dr. Buchanan proposes an ecclesiastical establishment for India,	117
1806.	Dr. Buchanan proposes to translate the Holy Scrip- tures into fifteen oriental languages,	125
	Rev. H. Martyn and Rev. D. Corrie arrive at Cal- cutta,	125
	Memoir of Bishop Corrie,	130
	Memoir of Mrs. Corrie,	133
1808.	Lord Minto governor,	143
	Letter and Diary of Mr. Brown,	162
	Rev. T. T. Thomason arrives,	174
	Mr. Martyn finishes the Hindostanee New Testa- ment,	181
1810.	Bible Society established at Calcutta,	187
	Letters of Mr. Martyn,	193
	Conversion of Abdol Messeh,	202
1812.	An earthquake—The Printing Office at Serampore destroyed by fire,	203
	Rev. Mr. Brown dies,	81, 204
	Mr. Thomason revises the Arabic Bible with Sabat, ...	207
1813.	East India Company grant £1250. towards printing the Bible in Malay,	208
	Earl Moira governor,	209

CONTENTS.

ix

A.D.	PAGE
	Dr. Middleton appointed first Bishop of Calcutta, ... 209
	Arrives in India, 215
	The Hindoo College, and the School Book Society, established, 218
	Church Missionary Society send Rev. W. Greenwood, 219
1816.	Native Schools established, 225
1819.	Rev. Messrs. Jetter and Deer arrive at Burdwan, ... 226
1821.	Rev. John Perowne arrives at Burdwan, 227
	Conversion of a Brahmin, 229
	History of James, a native catechist, 230
	The Calcutta mission, 233
	Krishnagur, 235
	Benares, 236
	Cawnpore—Christian Translation Society—Native Female Orphan Asylum, 242
1826.	Meerut—Rev. H. Fisher, 245
	Conversion of Matthew Prabu Din Naick, 248
	Letter from Bishop Middleton, 251
	Agra—Bishop Corrie, 265
	Rev. Dr. Parish—Agra Relief Society, 266
	Agra Orphan Institution, 268
	Christian Knowledge Society—Bishop Middleton, ... 275
	Society for Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 278
	Bishop's College—Marquis of Hastings, 280
	Dr. Mills' History of Our Lord, in Sanscrit verse, ... 284
	Bishop of Calcutta visits Jangera and Barripore, ... 304
	Examination of Catechumens, 308
	Tallygange Mission, 314
	Cawnpore and Futtehpore, 321
	Account of Calcutta and its establishments, 325
	Definitions of Brahma, 337
	Description of a Sabbath at sea, 350
	Escape of Rev. H. Fisher, 353
	Memoir of Rev. Charles Knorpp, 364
	Loss of life at a Bathing Festival at Benares, 375
	Journal of a Missionary at Benares, 377

A D.	PAGE
Obituary of Stephen Laprimaudaye, Esq.	399
Memorial of Captain W.	400
Death of Mrs. Schneider,	404
Memoir of Sir Henry Blosset,	407
A Visit to the Female Orphan Refuge, Agriparrah,	411
Conversion of a Native,	414
Notes of a journey to Bombay,	415

**SKETCHES OF CHRISTIANITY IN
NORTH INDIA.**

A HISTORY

OF THE PROGRESS OF

CHRISTIANITY IN NORTH INDIA.

AN invaluable History of the spread of Christianity in the South of India having been given to the world by the Rev. Mr. Hough, formerly chaplain to the Hon. East India Company, many have been led to inquire for a history of Christianity in North India. The following sketch is intended to supply this want.

The obscurity in which the early periods of history are involved is a subject of regret to every lover of useful knowledge, but is especially to be lamented when it affects the records of those events which concern the eternal interests of mankind. The period when Christianity was first introduced into India, and the circumstances attending its introduction, are involved in considerable obscurity ; but there is good ground for believing that Christianity was introduced into India at a very early period of the Christian era, and that it prevailed to a considerable extent. The remarkable coincidence of some of the stories related in the Hindoo Purāns, with part of the Christian Scriptures, could scarcely have been accidental ; and the proof which the late Colonel Wilford has adduced, of some at least of the Purāns being of a date posterior to the

Christian era, seems to sanction the opinion of the having been constructed according to notions then current, derived from the Christian scriptures. There are two sects now existing in North India, certainly of modern origin, which evidently shew in their writings a knowledge vastly superior to Hindooism, either ancient or modern, in things pertaining to God and salvation. The names of the leaders of these sects are Kawir and Nanik Shah.

But whatever of true Christian knowledge now prevails in India, may be traced to labours of a comparatively recent date. The Portuguese were first in the order of European nations who attempted to establish Christianity in India, but the corrupt form of it which that people had adopted from Rome, assimilated more to Hindooism than to the simple religion of Jesus Christ its founder. This sketch therefore will be confined to the labours of Protestant Christians.

Amongst these, the honour of being first to erect the standard of the cross in India, belongs to the Dutch. In the beginning of the seventeenth century, they obtained possession of the whole coast of Ceylon, and took immediate measures for the dissemination of primitive Christianity. They settled among the people faithful and pious missionaries, evangelists, 'messengers of the Churches,' by whom they were sent forth. Schools were quickly instituted in various parts of the island, &c. and by the end of the century, 300,000 of the natives were numbered among the members of their churches. Soon after the commencement of the eighteenth century, Frederic, the fourth king of Denmark, in consequence of the recommendation of one of his chaplains, resolved on establishing a mission for the conversion of the heathen on the coast of Coromandel. With a view to this, he engaged and sent out Bartholomew Ziegenbalg, and Henry Plutcho, two young men who were educated for the ministry at the university of Halle, in Saxony, and who arrived at the Danish settlement of Tranquebar, in July 1706.

These missionaries corresponded with some of the first characters of that age, both in Denmark and in England, on the subject of their mission,* and in 1714, Ziegenbalg visited both these countries with a view to obtain help for the great work in which he was engaged. In England he was received with the greatest kindness by all ranks. He was honoured with an audience by George the First, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishop of London, who promised to afford the mission the utmost assistance in their power. In consequence, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, which had been established only a few years before in London, was led to patronize the mission at Tranquebar, and has ever since that period been the principal instrument of supporting and extending the undertaking.

That Society, in 1716, published a collection of letters from the Protestant missionaries and other worthy persons in the East Indies, relating to the mission, and with a view to draw the attention of the English nation to the more extensive propagation of the gospel in India. At first, assistance was sent from the society to the Danish missionaries, but afterwards new missions were undertaken under the express sanction and immediate superintendence and at the sole expense of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

The first of these missions was established at Fort St. George in 1728, and was extended to Cudalore in 1737. Among the missionaries sent out by the society to Cudalore, was John Frederic Kiernander. He was a native of Sweden, and completed his education at the university of Upsal. In 1735, he became latin teacher in the university of Halle, in Saxony, under Dr. Franke, and after four years was recommended by him to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, as a suitable person to be sent to India as a missionary. He accordingly set out for London, and from thence em-

* See Buchanan's *Christian Researches*, p. 154.

barking in the Colchester Indiaman, arrived at Cudalore on the 20th of April, 1740, where he continued to labour till May 1758, when that settlement was taken by the French under the command of Lieutenant-General Count Lally.

After the capitulation Mr. Kiernander was informed by that impetuous General, that the services of a Protestant missionary were no longer required at that settlement, and a passport being offered him, he accepted it, and retired to the Danish settlement of Tranquebar.

No immediate prospect appearing of the restoration of Cudalore to the English, Mr. Kiernander turned his attention to Bengal, where the English power had now obtained a considerable ascendancy, and on the 29th of September, 1758, he arrived in Calcutta.

On his arrival he was received by the then Governor Clive, and the other members of the government, with great kindness, and a house was appropriated on the part of government for his residence, rent free, which was continued to him for eight years. This may be justly considered a new era in the religious history of Calcutta. Up to that period it is probable that the ordinances of religion had been administered very irregularly.

In the early charters granted to the East India Company, a clause had been inserted requiring them to maintain a chaplain and a schoolmaster, wherever a European regiment was stationed. It was also enacted, that the chaplains of the company should qualify themselves to afford Christian instruction to the Hindu and Portuguese servants of the company in their native languages. But the continual struggle for existence which the local government had to maintain with the native powers, added to the spirit of amassing wealth which usually attends men in the situation of the first English settlers in Calcutta, would greatly obstruct the operation of such enactments; and, in fact, it does not appear that either then or for a long period afterwards,

any steps were taken to carry the provision of the charter, as it respected the native servants of the company, into execution. The English, however, had not wholly neglected the necessary provision for public worship among themselves. A writer who signed himself '*Asiaticus*,' who had resided long in India, and who published a small volume a short time before his death (1802) has recorded a few particulars of the early state of European Calcutta, which he collected from eye-witnesses, as from authentic tradition.

From that author it appears, that a church was erected in Calcutta in or about the year 1715, at which time the English had been there about twenty-five years. In a note, *Asiaticus* gives an extract from the travels of Capt. Alexander Hamilton, published in 1727, who spent his time in trading in various parts of the East Indies from the year 1688 to 1723. 'About fifty yards from Fort William (now the New Custom House) stands the Church, built by the pious munificence of the merchants residing there, and the Christian benevolence of a few sea-faring men, whose affairs called them to trade there ; but ministers of the Gospel being subject to mortality, very often young merchants are obliged to officiate, and have a salary of £50 per annum, added to what the Company allows them for their pains in reading prayers, and a sermon on Sunday.'

Nor were the destitute offspring of Europeans wholly unheeded by the British inhabitants of Calcutta of that day. Before, or about 1732, a subscription was set on foot for the maintenance and education of twenty boys, to which subscriptions were added the sacramental collections, and a Mr. Bouchier, sometime master-attendant at Calcutta, afterwards Governor of Bombay, on the establishment by charter of a Mayor's Court in 1726, built a lower-roomed house on the site of the present Scotch Church, which house he conveyed to Government, on condition of paying 4000 arcat rupees per annum to support a charity-school, and for other benevolent purposes.

In consideration of the great additions afterwards made to the Court-house, chiefly by the liberality of the inhabitants of the town, government agreed to give 800 rupees per mensem to the school, and when the ruinous state of the building made it necessary to pull it down, Government generously agreed to pay that sum in perpetuity.

A furious hurricane, which occurred in 1737, attended by a violent earthquake, levelled the English Church with the ground, did immense damage to the shipping, and otherwise much injured the town of Calcutta. The church was rebuilt not long after, and information thereof was sent to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts. To this communication an answer was sent expressive of their approbation of what had been done. A silver cup was also sent by the Society, with an appropriate inscription commemorative of the event.

No further record of the religious history of Calcutta from that period till 1756 remains, when, among the other devastations, committed by the army of the Nawab of Bengal, the church was demolished. It lay contiguous to the old fort at the west end, where the writers' buildings now stand.

The two chaplains to the Government then at Calcutta perished ;—one in the black hole, and the other during the mortality which broke out among the fugitives from Calcutta at Fulta ; and during the whole of 1757, there was no Protestant minister at Calcutta. In 1758, of the two chaplains stated to have arrived, one did not belong to this presidency, but had been detained on the emergency by the governor. These circumstances would render the prospect of a permanent ministry among them very acceptable to the reflecting part of the community, and accounts very naturally for the cordial reception Mr. Kiernander met with. From his first arrival he seems to have taken a share in the public offices of religion equally with the chaplains, and kept a register of all occasional duties, which is still

referred to as an official document. After the demolition of the church in 1786 till 1787, a small Bungalow (single-floored residence) situated in the old fort, was the only place of worship for the Presidency, except a church, raised by the efforts of Mr. Keirnander. This is not the only instance in which new settlements have been indebted to missionary piety and zeal for the blessings of a regular Gospel ministry ; and it is practically important that the present race of inhabitants of Calcutta, who are so highly favoured in respect of religious opportunities, should know how much they and their ancestors are indebted to the missionary zeal of the Church of England.

Mr. Keirnander, on his settlement in Calcutta, set himself diligently to fulfil the object of his mission. It does not appear that he consulted the Society, under whose directions he had proceeded to India, respecting his removal from the coast to Calcutta ; but, on being informed of the circumstances, &c., that led to it, the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge continued their support to him. Accordingly, in the Report of that Society, published in 1761, they express their obligations to Messrs. Butler and Cape, chaplains of that settlement, for their very friendly reception of Mr. Keirnander—for their procuring large subscriptions toward carrying on the good work he is engaged in ; and for the Christian offer they make of assisting him in the peculiar offices of a minister of the gospel.

The Rev. Henry Butler, in a letter of the 12th of January 1761, bears testimony to the good behaviour of the Society's missionary, and recommends it to them to send a person of industry and unblemished morals to assist him in the school, not doubting, but that whatever stipend they shall allow him will be considerably augmented in Calcutta.

Aided by the large subscriptions here acknowledged, Asiaticus states, that Mr. Keirnander opened a school at Calcutta, called the Mission School, on Dec. 1, 1758, and by the end of the following year, 175 children had

been received by him, thirty-seven of whom had been clothed and maintained, as well as educated. Among these, it is probable, were included twenty children, supported by the Town Charity, previously existing. In after years these were included in the account of the mission, under a distinct head; and it is known, that afterwards Mr. Keirnander, and his assistant, had the superintendence of the Town Charity until the time when the present free-school was established.

In the Report made to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, of the mode of instruction used in the school, it is stated, that the scholars were all taught in the English language, in reading, writing and arithmetic, and were all, whether of heathen, Mohamadan, Roman, or Protestant parents, equally catechized and instructed in the Christian religion. One of the Bengalees (a Brahmin) had in the year read through the Bishop of Man's instructions for the Indians,* the English Bible, and the Whole Duty of Man. Hence, a hope is expressed, that when they grew up, they would embrace the truth of our holy religion. Some of the descendants of the Romanists already declared they would never be Papists. Many of them, from fifteen to twenty-five years of age, who had been before neglected by the Romish priests, who gave them no instruction, but rather chose to keep them in ignorance, had applied to this school, and were more disposed and apt to learn than those on the coast.

It is further stated that Mr. Kiernander had offered his services to the Portuguese, some of whom belonged to the old congregation at Cudalore; and at their request, with the consent of the governor and English chaplains, he had begun, June 3rd, at such hours as did not interfere with the English service, to preach in Portuguese. His congregation was yet but small, consisting of (beside the school-boys) five from Cudalore, and eleven of Calcutta, and his own family. The wife of a German

* Bishop Wilson.

soldier, with her two children, had been received into his congregation. He had also preached and administered the sacrament at Frederick-Nagore, or Serampore, when desired, as the Danes had there no chaplain ; and, when requested, had read prayers and preached in the English church, besides which he occasionally visited the Swedes and Germans in the company's service.

The constant attendance on the school had prevented him from learning the Bengalee language so as to address himself to the natives in their own tongue, but he gave the preference to the education of children, having more hopes from their tender minds than from those who had grown old in ignorance and sin. And he expressed his desire that thus opening a door to young persons might, as hitherto, be attended with God's blessing ; adding, that he would be heartily glad of a fellow labourer ; that one of them might apply himself to the Bengalee language, and the other to the Hindostanee.

In August, 1759, a Dutch ship from Batavia arrived in the river Hoogly, filled with troops, and others followed, bringing in all 700 Europeans and 800 Malays. The arrival of such a body of men, without any visible occasion for their service, alarmed the local English government, who, in the precarious situation of their affairs with the native powers, could not but feel to what danger they should be exposed were so formidable a reinforcement to take part against them. Measures were accordingly taken, by which nearly the whole of the Europeans were taken prisoners. It appears that of these about 400 of the Dutch soldiers volunteered into the company's service, so that the greatest part of the garrison of Fort William were acquainted with the German tongue. At their desire, and with the consent of the colonel commanding, Mr. Kiernander, in the January following, reported that he had begun to give them a sermon on Sundays, and had a considerable congregation, both of soldiers and their officers, and likewise of other Germans of the place.

In another letter from Calcutta, the 29th Feb. 1760,

he informed the society that the number of his scholars increased monthly, of the Portuguese children of Roman Catholic parents.

The above statements give a favourable impression of the prudence and zeal with which Mr. Kiernander pursued the important objects of his mission : the due respect paid to those in authority not only procured him easy access to the European soldiers, who, but for his pious care must have remained destitute of Christian ordinances, but also gained their favourable support to the more immediate objects of his mission.

Some reference to an attempt on the part of the Roman Catholic Portuguese to dispossess him of the place in which his school was kept, the particulars of which are not recorded, indicate that his labours were not without a portion of that opposition which such attempts have ever experienced. "Whilst the strong man armed keeps his house his goods are in peace ; but when a stronger than he comes" to reclaim the spoil, a contest begins, which the messengers of the Gospel must be content to maintain, using only those weapons with which their divine Master has supplied them. These are principally, patience in imparting instruction ; humble faith, and persevering prayer.

In this spirit Mr. Kiernander seems to have commenced his work in Calcutta, nor were his labours confined to public preaching and teaching in the schools ; books and tracts were also distributed by him, and copies of an address in manuscript, which he circulated among the Roman Catholics of Portuguese origin, are yet in existence, in which the erroneous tenets of the Church of Rome were plainly and affectionately set forth, and many were led to attend to the instruction thus given them. It may be here noticed, that Mr. Kiernander continued to the end of his life, to labour for the good of this class of the Calcutta population.

He for some years kept up a regular correspondence with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,

though but few particulars respecting the progress of his labours are published. From these however we learn the pleasing fact, that the conductors of that venerable institution, were much alive to the spiritual interests of India, and from what is still experienced of the expense and difficulty with which similar supplies are obtained, the school-books, tracts, and medicines, put by them at Mr. Kiernander's disposal, must have been of inestimable benefit to the poorer classes of Christians of that day in Calcutta.

At the end of 1760, being the second year of his abode in that city, Mr. Kiernander gave the following account of his school and ministry: 'that there remained 231 scholars, all of whom are taught reading, writing, cyphering, and the principles of Christianity;' and, he says, 'their inclination to learn, and the emulation that he perceives among them, make him go on with pleasure in his labour.' The number increasing obliged him to employ more assistants, and he was supplied with them from those brought up in the school. This is a pleasing fact in this early part of the history of the mission. It is further stated, that he had been enabled to supply 154 rupees monthly, for the salaries of those assistants, besides books, ink, and some small wages for servants, all which large expence had been defrayed, without putting the Society to any charge. He was at that time under some difficulty with regard to a house in which he might have his school.

He had baptized, beside children of Portuguese, German, and Dutch parents, one adult Tamul-can, seventeen years old, and was preparing three other adults for baptism. Of his Portuguese congregation, two adult persons and four children had died. He had that year sixty-one communicants; he continued preaching in the Portuguese language, had no time to apply himself fully to learn the language of the country, and was desirous of an associate to assist him in his growing labours.

At the end of the year 1761, there remained in the

a considerable number of English, German, and Portuguese books and tracts, which were extensively distributed, and the result is stated to be an increased spirit of devotion in the congregation, and a growing practice of real godliness.

At the close of 1766, Mr. Kiernander reports an increase of twenty-seven persons to his congregation, who had renounced the errors of Popery.


Besides these successful efforts among the adult population, Mr. Kiernander expressed a hope at this time that his labours in the schools were not wholly in vain; but had been of great and real service in giving education to several who were then capable of taking useful and influential employments and situations under government, which circumstance he trusted, from the good conduct he might warrantably calculate upon, from the Christian principles in which they had been instructed, would recommend the school to the favour and fostering care of those in authority.

It may be proper to state in explanation, that Mr. Kiernander became possessed of considerable property on his second marriage. He was also greatly patronized in all his useful labours by the European residents.

Another letter dated Feb. 25, 1768, relates the deliberate conversion of a priest of the Church of Rome, forty years of age, of the order of St. Augustin. His name was P. F. Bento de Silvestre. He understood the French, Portuguese, Bengalee, and Hindostanee languages.

About this time Mr. Kiernander was applied to for copies of the Psalms and New Testament in Arabic, by some persons connected with the court of *Shah Allum*, and they were so well received by his Majesty's moolahs, that he transmitted to Allahabad, where the court was then held, all the Arabic Psalters and Testaments in his possession.

In the beginning of June 1769, there arrived in Calcutta another clergyman, formerly of the Romish persuasion,—the Rev. Mansol Joze Da Costa, who had been privately received into the Protestant Church at



Madras, on Nov. 21, 1768, and who read his public recantation in Mr. Kiernander's Portuguese congregation.

The following interesting account of him is given by the missionaries to whom he first addressed himself at Madras :

‘He was a native of Coimbra in Portugal, aged forty-four years at the time he renounced Popery, of the order of the Dominicans, and had been admitted into that society, and ordained before he left Europe. After he came into Asia, he was near seven years at Goa, from whence he was sent to Dice, near Surat, invested with the power of an inquisitor, and afterwards to Siam. Hither he brought some doubts with regard to the Popish doctrines, and becoming acquainted with a Jesuit priest named Antonio Rodrigues, whom he observed to entertain the like scruples with himself, they opened their minds to each other. Here he got, for the first time in his life, a sight of the Bible in Latin. This he studied, together with some Protestant books which Providence threw in his way, and there gained so much insight into the errors of the Church of Rome, and was so far convinced that the Protestant doctrines were agreeable to the word of God, that during the six years he resided at Siam, he mentioned these things privately to many of the Portuguese that were there, and he gave in a list of forty-three persons, who accordingly came over from the Romish to the Protestant persuasion.

‘Father Rodrigues, with whom, as long as he lived, D’Costa secretly kept up an intimacy, actually separated himself from the Church of Rome, and leaving the Jesuits, put himself under the protection of the Dutch, who had then a factory at Siam. Upon this his brethren excommunicated him, and Padre D’Costa received likewise an order from Goa to send Rodrigues from Siam to the inquisition ; but the execution of this order was very well dispensed with on account of the latter being protected by the Dutch. Sometime after, Rodrigues, being dangerously ill, the Jesuits went to him, and offered him a plenary absolution ; but he

refused both that and the extreme unction. They were however very busy about him to his last moments, and when he was dead, gave out that he had returned to the communion of the Romish Church, and buried him with the usual ceremonies.

'Padre D'Costa's inclination to the Protestant religion could not long remain concealed from some suspicious persons at Siam. Happening therefore to be confined to his bed by sickness, he was visited by one of his own order, who seized upon his escritoir, and finding in it a paper, wherein he and Rodrigues had noted many errors of the Church of Rome, took it away, together with his Protestant books, and other effects, and got him on board a vessel bound for Goa, in order to be put into the Inquisition. A Moor of his acquaintance however set him on shore at Jausolen, from whence he came to Cobolam.

'Here he found that his being sent from Siam was providentially a benefit to him, as he thereby escaped the danger in which others were involved, when the King of Ava and Pegu invaded that country. Soon after this he went to Tranquebar, on purpose to discover himself to the Danish missionaries; here, though he lived with the Roman Padre, he found means to get several Portuguese books printed in the mission, and going frequently to Parreiana, where the missionaries have a church, he there met with the Rev. Mr. Weidebrock, but feared to disclose himself, lest it should come to the ears of the bishop of the French mission at Siam, who was then at Pondicherry, and who might hinder the design he had of introducing the Protestant religion among his old congregation. He therefore quitted his intention of embracing Protestantism at Tranquebar; determining to go to Madras, to find Mr. Fabricius; and came in disguise to Vepery, in the month of October, 1766; but as that missionary was not then at home, he did not think fit to discover himself to Mr. Breilhaupt.

The secession of these two missionaries from the

Romish church excited no little stir among the members of that communion in India ; and in the month of July 1769, a priest arrived in Calcutta from Goa, authorized to excommunicate Mr. Bento de Silvestre unless he should recant. A letter was sent him demanding an answer in twenty-four hours, to the several charges laid against him. He returned an immediate answer, requesting that it might be read publicly in the Romanist church, but, aware that this request would not be complied with, he distributed several copies of it to the people in the town, and thus his reasons for leaving their communion being made public, much discussion was excited, and some good produced among those of better understanding.

It may be sufficient to add here that these two converts continued for many years to manifest the sincerity with which they had embraced the Protestant faith, by being content to live in great poverty, whilst they assisted considerably and cheerfully in the instruction of the congregation over which Mr. Kiernander presided.

Mr. D'Costa suffered much from ill health, and died in 1771, after a long illness. To the last he had a great desire of returning to Siam, in the hope of being successful in undoing part of what through ignorance he might have done amiss, and of turning many unto God. Mr. Bento de Silvestre was received as a catechist by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, at a salary of £50 a year, and continued to labour faithfully in the service of the mission, till his death in 1786.

Several affecting accounts were rendered to the Society of the pious and exemplary lives and happy deaths of several of the mission congregation of both sexes during this year. Among the adult converts was one Thomas, a native of Bengal, aged twenty-four years, who had made such proficiency in the Portuguese language and in the knowledge of Christianity, that he had been employed as a catechist to instruct his countrymen, &c.

Another was a Chinese from Canton, a sea-faring man of the age of twenty-two years, and who desired to settle in Calcutta. The other two were women, also natives of Bengal, the one aged twenty, the other sixteen years.

Among the converts from popery was one Antonio Soaffery from Leghorn, who had resided at Calcutta twenty-nine years, and was then fifty-two years of age. He had for some time entertained doubts concerning popery, and expressed his thanks to God, that seeing his error, he had been led into the knowledge of "the truth as it is in Jesus."

The Rev. Mr. Bento de Silvestre had for some time been engaged in translating the catechism and some prayers into the Bengallee language, and was at this time upon the point of finishing what promised to be an important acquisition to the Bengallee converts, &c.

In 1770 a Captain John Griffen died, who by his will bequeathed the residue of his estate to the church then being erected, and directed that the yearly interest should be available for the repairs of the church, and to supplying the salaries of one or two missionaries and school-masters, appointing the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, jointly with the Rev. Dr. Knapp, director of the Orphan-house at Halle, Saxony, trustees for the right application of the bequest.

On communicating this circumstance, Mr. Kiernander renewed his request that two more missionaries might be provided and sent to Calcutta by the earliest opportunity. This application was favourably received, and communication entered into with Dr. Knapp of Halle, desiring him to look out for two suitable persons to be sent as soon as it should be deemed advisable. The affairs of Captain Griffen were found to be in some disorder, and though the legacy is spoken of in subsequent reports, it does not appear ever to have been realized to the mission.

The year 1771 was remarkable in Bengal for the excessive distress and calamity which the generality of

the natives underwent. During the first part of the year, from January to June, were continual fires, to the ruin of thousands of families, and the entire consumption of many plentifully-stored granaries of rice and other provisions which had been collected together in the prospect of an approaching dearth. No rain had fallen in Bengal for a period of nine months, and in the upper provinces for a longer period. A famine succeeded, and thousands died. The number of those who perished is stated on good authority to have been at least 1,400,000 ; others state the mortality to have been much greater. The streets and roads in Calcutta were daily strewed with dead bodies, &c. At Mushadabad (Patna) and other places the mortality was even greater.

In such a scene of distress and suffering and death, the Christian missionary's heart and hands were open to sympathize and to relieve. Mr. Kiernander, in a letter to the Society, acknowledges with the warmest expressions of gratitude to God, the more than fatherly care and kindness experienced during this season of scarcity and contagion. Not only were his own wants supplied, but he was enabled to administer to the wants of many.

In this communication the completion of the church is noticed. It was consecrated and solemnly set apart to the service of God as a *Mission Church* on the fourth Sunday in advent of that year. Instead of 20,000 rupees, as at first calculated, the cost amounted, owing to an enlargement of the original plan, to 60,000 rupees and upwards, which sum was met by Mr. Kiernander out of his own private resources, excepting a few subscriptions amounting to not more than 1800 rupees.

Hitherto Mr. Kiernander had ministered in his own dwelling-house ; from henceforth public service was uniformly conducted in the church ; in the morning in English and Portuguese, and again in the afternoon in Portuguese, besides prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays

years as a missionary of the order of Carmelites at Busora.

Through diligent and prayerful reading of the Scriptures, his mind became emancipated from the thralldom to which it had been long enslaved, and boldness was given him to renounce the dangerous and damning errors of popery, and to embrace the Protestant faith. Accordingly he was, a month after his arrival at Calcutta, in the face of the congregation, enabled to make his abjuration, which he delivered to Mr. Keirnander, who received him into the truly Catholic Church of Christ. After prayer, &c., a sermon was delivered from Rev. xviii. 4, 5; after which, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered, and Mr. F. J. Hanson partook of it.

There were present on this occasion the Governor, and most of the Council, the Rev. Dr. Burn, and many other gentlemen. A collection was made, which amounted to 313 rupees.

In 1772, the Society received several letters from Mr. Keirnander, containing accounts of the chief circumstances of the mission—his own good health—the partial failure—and restoration to health of the Rev. Mr. Bento da Sauza's, and that gentleman's diligence and usefulness both in the English and Portuguese congregations, the schools, &c.

The congregation had been increased by seven adult heathens, and eleven converts from popery, besides children. The communicants were, in the English congregation 96, and in the Portuguese 104, and in the school there were 94 scholars.

Detailed accounts of these particulars are contained in the Society's publications. The repeated application of Mr. Keirnander for assistants at length brought the desired help. In July 1772, the Reverend Professor Freylinhausen, Director of the Orphan Institution at Halle, informed the Society, that through the divine blessing he had at length found out a young man, educated not only with sincere and unfeigned piety towards

God, but with such a measure of discretion and learning as might qualify him for the due discharge of the office of a missionary. His name was John Christman Diemer, a native of Alsatia, who at first studied divinity for some years at Strasburg, from whence he removed to Halle, where, besides pursuing his theological studies, he had been employed as a teacher and moderator in the Orphan House. The Society concurred with his suggestion to send this person as a colleague to Mr. Kiernander, whose age and infirmities more urgently called for an assistant, whom he might train up in the duties of the mission, which it was feared would lose ground if no one were at hand to take charge of it in case of Mr. Kiernander's death.

In December of the same year, Mr. Diemer having proceeded to London, was presented to the Society, and the Rev. Mr. Bourdillon being requested to undertake the office, delivered to him the instructions of the board in a Latin oration, which is still preserved in the Society's publications, and affords a delightful specimen of the truly pious principles which actuated the leading men of that venerable body.

During the year 1773, sixteen adult heathens, natives of Bengal, were added to the mission congregation in Calcutta, and six Romanists. About this time Mr. Kiernander was visited with a domestic affliction by the death of his wife. A pleasing circumstance is recorded consequent upon this event, but fully in accordance with the singular liberality of this excellent man. The personal property of Mrs. Kiernander, at her express desire, amounting to 8000 rupees, was appropriated to the building of a school-house, which was much wanted for the mission. It was built on the east side of the church, where what are called the Old Church Rooms now stand, consisting of three large rooms sufficiently spacious to contain 250 children. It was ready for occupation in March 1774. From the assistance afforded by the converted missionaries, an extension of the mission seems to have been contemplated about this time, and

the Rev. Mr. Ramalhake was detached to Cossim-Bazar to assist in the Portuguese congregation there ; but the sickness of some of the other assistants caused him to be recalled to Calcutta after a short period. A Malabar convert had also been entertained as a catechist, and in the school, three masters and one assistant were employed.

In the course of the year 1774, fifteen adult heathens and two from among the Papists, were added to the congregation. Mention is made in the report for this year of a legacy left by a Mrs. Mary Handel, which had by a year's interest accumulated to 876 current rupees. Besides this legacy a gentleman, (Mr. Edward Stutton,) left by his will the sum of 500 rupees legacy to Beth-Tephillah.

An instance is given of the discouragement which arises to missionaries from the seeming neglect of friends in Europe to the missionary cause, and which if foreseen would often operate to prevent them from giving themselves to a work which must die with them, unless carried on by native agency.

One man who had been a churchwarden, and a great supporter of the Romish communion, since he read the Bible, had absented himself from their service, but was still wavering. This was also the case with many others, some of whom had told Mr. Kiernander, that they could see plainly enough many absurdities and abuses in their religion. They made however a somewhat singular objection to becoming Protestants, viz., that they had seen Mr. Kiernander stand alone and unsupported for fifteen years, no one having come from Europe to assist, and in the event of his death to succeed him ; and that in case of his death they would be without protector or a guide.

In 1775 Mr. Keirnander, who beside being far advanced in years and afflicted with a disease in the eye, which rendered an operation necessary, expressed his gratitude and joy at the seasonable aid afforded by the arrival of the Rev. Mr. Diemer in Calcutta. When this gentleman first arrived he was received into Mr.

Keirnander's own house, where he resided till he married a daughter of a Mr. Charles Weston, of whom some account will be given hereafter, who lodged him in one of his own houses.

In the meantime Mr. Keirnander, intent on establishing the mission on the best possible footing, pulled down his old house, and rebuilt it on a plan sufficiently large to accommodate two families, intending to give it to the mission, that the church-school and mission-house might be near each other.

Messrs. Keirnander, Diemer, and the Rev. Mr. Bento, now laboured conjointly. Mr. Diemer giving himself to the acquisition of English, in which he was soon able to minister, occasionally preaching also in German at Chinsurah, and administering the sacraments.

In the course of the year seventeen adults had been received into the Church, two of whom were Mahomedans, and fifteen Hindoos. Among the latter was a man named Ganeswan Dass, who was born at Delhi, where he lived till the death of his father, which happened when he was fifteen years of age. He then repaired to the English army, where he served several offices as Persian interpreter, till he entered into the service of a Major Graham, whom he accompanied to England in 1770, where he was kindly treated, and instructed several persons in the Persian language. In 1774, he returned to Calcutta, and was employed as Persian interpreter, and translator to the supreme court.

Sometime after his return, he occasionally attended church, and in the beginning of May 1774, addressed himself to one of the missionaries, declaring his desire of becoming a Christian, and at length requested baptism. After considerable intercourse with him, and close examination, &c., being persuaded of the sincerity of his profession and desire of embracing Christianity, they complied with his request. On Sunday, May 25, he was baptized, and took the name of Robert. His sponsors were the Hon. Sir Robert Chambers, Mrs. Chambers, senior, and Mr. Naylor.

other casta, and the lowest is an object of desecration to all. Such is what is called the Vedant system, or the doctrine of the *Vedas*. These are the most ancient scriptures of the Hindoos, under which the more refined of the present day take refuge, and dignify it with the name of Monotheism.*

* Whatever may have been asserted to the contrary, the Hindu writings recognize nothing of an Almighty, Eternal, Self-existent, all-glorious and Holy Being, who is the sole object of worship and adoration. The intellectual system, as it is called, of the *Veda*, as distinguished from the idolatrous system, is not that of an adoration of a supreme Being, but a fancied *personal identification* of themselves with His all-pervading substance, just as when a vessel of water is sunk in the ocean (to use their own image,) the water mixes inseparably and indistinguishably with the ocean as soon as the vessel is broken, to which the previous delusion is compared. Of the existence of one God, supreme *above*, and of course infinitely *distinct from* all created or extended existence, the Hindu Scriptures know nothing. '*Eko Brahm dutiya Nashita.*' One Spirit and not a second, is the thesis worked out by all the Hindu philosophers. *I* and *thou*, are not in the alphabet of their religion, and *supreme* and *subordinate* are unknown, or at least, unacknowledged terms. Hinduism is in fact pure *Pan-Theism*. An elaborate statement of the *Vedant* system of the Hindus may be seen in Mr. Colebrooke's *Essays*, vol. i. or *Asiat. Res.* vol. viii. p. 395, &c. Compare Menu, chap. xii. ver. 1, 2, 3.

This system, which has never wanted its advocates in Europe, is identical with the Egyptian theology. They taught that the soul was a particle of the *divine* æther, which without consciousness animated successively, myriads of sentient beings. And it may well be asked, '*An non disceres Spinosam sua ab hisce Egyptiis mutuatum esse!*' A daring application of the Pantheistic principle to the theory and historic criticism of the gospel, has of late been made by several German critics, and carried to its highest pitch in the work of Dr. D. F. Strauss, on the '*Life of Jesus.*' The following lines of Pope are singularly apt.

'All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
Whose body nature is, and God the soul,
That, changed through all, and yet in all the same;
Great in the earth as in the æthereal frame,
Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
Glow's in the stars and blossoms in the trees:
Lives through all life, extends through all extent,
Spreads undivided, operates unspent;
Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal parts,
As full, as perfect, in the hair as heart,
As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,
As the rapt seraph that adores and burns.
To Him no high, no low, no great, no small,
He fills, He bounds, connects and equals all.'

In the course of this year, seventy-five persons were baptized in the English and Portuguese congregation. Among these there were fourteen adult Hindos, three Malays, and three Malabareans, six Mohamedans, and one person from the Rohilla country. The communicants in the English congregation were 148, and in the Portuguese 105. Seventy-seven children had been instructed in the school, of whom twenty were the town charity children, and thirty out-scholars, who had partaken of the bounty of the society.

During the year 1778, a Mr. Gerlach arrived in Calcutta. He was sent by the brethren from Tranquebar, to assist in the general duties of the mission. As Mr. Kiernander was now unable to see, and Mr. Diemer was, it appeared, frequently unwell, the arrival of Mr. Gerlach was very opportune.

In 1780, four adult native Hindos, and one Mohamadan, were admitted to baptism; and four Romanists were received into the Protestant communion. The communicants in the English congregation were 130, and in the Portuguese ninety-three.

For several successive years, things are reported to have continued very much the same; now and then a few additional members being added to the present infant church. In 1781, eight adult natives, besides children, were baptized. The communicants increased to the number of 148 in the English congregation; the Portuguese continuing the same.

In 1782, Mr. Kiernander reported the baptism of six adult natives, and the reception of two Romanists into communion. During this year there was an increase in the number of communicants in the Portuguese congregation of sixteen. The school during the year had educated forty-nine boys, and the Prayer Book was printed and put into circulation.

During 1783, seventeen adults were baptized, and one Romanist added to the congregation. One of the adults who had been baptized was a youth from Cochin China, who having lost his parents, lived with an elder brother,

when, a war breaking out, all the family ran into the woods to save themselves. This youth lost himself, and happened to come near the sea-side where an English ship lay at anchor. The captain humanely took the stranger under his care, and after some time recommended him to another English gentleman who sent him to the mission-school to be educated, and paid for his education. Having been four years in the school, he not only learnt English, but wrote a very good hand, and was well versed in arithmetic. He was employed as a writer in the sub-treasurer's office, and continued to attend divine service on a Sunday, &c.

The Rev. Mr. Wulsbrowe Hulse, chaplain to the commander-in-chief; and Sir Eyre Coote, about this time made the mission a present of 500 rupees. Mr. Kiernander likewise presented 1000, and his son Robert William Kiernander 3000, for the use of the mission:

The Rev. Mr. Diemer this year quitted the service of the society as their missionary at Calcutta, and returned to Europe.

The Rev. Mr. Kiernander, in a letter dated Dec. 31, 1785, acknowledges the receipt of books, stationary, and other presents from the society. He mentioned with much pleasure and thanksgiving to God, that his mission under various trying circumstance, not only continued in being, but had been wonderfully supported by the gracious assistance of divine providence. He observed, that though the society had at Calcutta, only one missionary, who had served in the mission upwards of forty-five years, yet the school and the English and Portuguese congregations had been all along regularly served and attended to as far as possible, so that hitherto no part of duty had been set aside. The Rev. Mr. Bento de Souza, who for many years had faithfully assisted in the care of the Portuguese congregation, after an illness which continued on him from February of this year, died in the month of July. Under these circumstances Mr. Kiernander mentions that he had used the assistance of a Mr. Franzel, whom he represents as an old *Candidatus Theologie*.

In the English and Portuguese congregation had been baptized,

Adult persons, natives of Bengal	14
Malays	2
Gentoos	2
Mahomedans . .	1
—	19

From the Popish had been received into our church during the same year 10

Communicants in the English congregation 162

In the Portuguese, ditto 136

In the school, were educated children 52

Of these children it is stated that none were boarders, but all out-scholars, of whom about a dozen paid for their instruction from two to four rupees a month; the rest were educated gratis. Mr. Kiernander at this time gratefully acknowledges the goodness of divine providence, in that Colonel Samuel Hampton about the beginning of this year defrayed the charges of some repairs in the church, expenses of a sort which in former years had devolved on Mr. Kiernander himself.

Mr. Kiernander also mentions that the charitable collections made in both the English and Portuguese congregations had been continued through a time of great distress; which circumstance he observes is encouraging, and an evidence of good will to the cause of God.

In a letter bearing date Dec. 31, 1786, Mr. Kiernander signified an intention he entertained of a voyage to London, hoping it might tend to the adjustment of certain matters between the society and himself, observing that he, an old *emeritus*, was not only spared alive, but supported to the age of seventy-four years, in health and strength, and vigour, full as much, if not more than at any former period since the year 1740, when he first arrived in the country. He observed that although the success in the increase of the congregations had not been so great as could have been wished, yet thanks were due to God for the blessing in that degree which had

been experienced, nor was he without hopes of better times and greater improvement. The opening prospect promised fair, and was sufficient to encourage a confirmation of the work, with new and united efforts. During the year Mr. Kiernander baptized,

Adult Mahomedans	8
Natives of Bengal	10
Caste unknown, but supposed to be of	
European fathers	2
	— 20
From the Popish had been received into the	
Protestant church	15
Communicants in the English congrega-	
tion	147
In the Portuguese	119
	— 266

In the school had been educated fifty-eight children, &c. At the close of this communication, Mr. Kiernander thanks God that the duties, of both congregations had been uninterruptedly attended to. He expressed a belief that the natives were coming to a better understanding and feeling in reference to the European character and the religion of Christians—the comparative good character of the former, and the entire good principles of the latter.

In another letter, bearing date Jan. 20th, 1787, he observes, that notwithstanding his earnest desire to visit England, he could not till help was obtained to take the duties during his absence, and concludes with expressing an opinion, that a glorious prospect was opening in the country for the success of the gospel.

Thus far the Journal of Mr. Kiernander. A cloud of adversity was gathering over his aged head, which, soon after burst, and the ruin of his fortunes followed.

Another missionary came, and entered into Mr. Kiernander's labours. Declining and stricken, he left the scene of his long and arduous labours, now productive of much pain and grief. He went to Chinsurah, and was appointed chaplain to that settlement (a French

settlement). On the capture of Chinsurah in 1795, he became a prisoner of war, and in this character received from the English a small subsistence when 86 years of age. At last, pitying his age and misfortunes, he was allowed to go to Calcutta. In the following spring he broke his thigh by a fall, and lingered long in agony. His dwelling contained but few comforts, but divine consolations abounded. In one of his last letters, directed to his native place, Akstad, in Sweden, he writes, 'My heart is full, but my hand is weak. The world is yet the same; there are many cold friends, others like broken reeds, but God makes the heaviest burden light and easy. I rejoice to see the poor mission prosper; this comforts me amidst all.' *

At length he was called hence to be no more seen. His sun set in obscurity to rise in glory.

Before the period to which these events refer, a favourable change had begun to take place in the state of European society in Calcutta, and some persons of influence had shown themselves favourable to the propagation of Christianity among the poor deluded idolatrous and Mahommedan population, but it was thought best to continue the history of Mr. Kiernander's ministry in an unbroken narrative. To him this presidency is indebted for having, during a period of nearly thirty years, and to a considerable degree, by his individual exertions, provided means of instruction for the Christian poor. The fact of there being at the time of his suspension from labour 147 communicants in the English congregation, beside 119 in the congregation called Portuguese, but consisting, in part, of natives of Bengal, and other provinces of itself, shows that his labours

* The cloud of affliction here alluded to, was composed of many drops. It has been stated that he possessed a large property by both his marriages. His munificence was almost unbounded. Twelve thousand pounds, previous to the death of his last wife, had been expended in the erection of a Church and out-buildings. During his blindness he was almost solitary, for few even came to soothe him in his sorrows; his temporal affairs, wholly neglected by himself, were at the mercy of strangers, who were the cause of his ruin.

were extensively blessed ; nor can the benefits conferred on them in the supply of the Scriptures and tracts by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge at a period when no other means of obtaining them existed, be overrated. In the absence of such information, no correct opinion can of course be offered on the attainment or extent of spirituality of the native congregation. Probably there are unpublished documents containing many interesting particulars, which would exhibit more clearly and satisfactorily the character and state of mind and feeling of persons admitted to baptism from time to time by Mr. Keirnander and his coadjutors. These must be sought for in the communications of the missionary to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. It may, however, be fairly inferred, that the instruction afforded by the missionaries, and the numerous copies of the Scriptures and tracts in various languages put in circulation by them would not be without a measure of those fruits of righteousness which are through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

A living witness, who was in early life a private pupil of Mr. Diemer's, has supplied the following observations on the character of the mission church congregation at that period.

‘ Between the years 1774 and 1783, Mr. Kiernander had been assisted with two ministers sent out by the society. The Rev. Mr. Gerlach, I have heard the Rev. Mr. Brown speak of, as a man of true piety and great learning ; but he could never attain the accent of the English language so as to preach in it with ease and comfort to himself, and therefore confined himself to the reading of the prayers in English, but preached readily in the Portuguese, and was of great service in assisting all inquirers with his excellent advice and holy conversation. The Rev. Mr. Diemer also assisted several years, and when Mr. Kiernander's infirmities increased, took charge of the school, and established one for private pupils in his own house, which was next door to the public school ; and as the public

school-room was a large one, his own pupils occupied one end, and the children belonging to the charity the other, with a teacher to attend them, but the whole under his own direction. Mr. Diemer married a daughter of Mr. Charles Weston, who had followed her father's example in abjuring popery and embracing protestantism ; she was of a meek and truly Christian temper and deportment, and was greatly beloved by the little flock of the mission church. She was taken off by a lingering disorder at Bundel, the 3rd of June, 1782, in the 23rd year of her age.


‘Two years after the death of his wife, Mr. Diemer returned to England with one son, the only survivor by that marriage ; but came out again to India as a company's chaplain, about the year 1791. He died a few months after his second arrival. During his stay in England he married a second wife, who left this country shortly after his death. At what time Mr. Kiernander's son (who was born in 1758) returned to India, I cannot say, but he was assisting his father, and officiating in the mission church in 1783. He married a Miss Morris, a young lady of pious deportment and consistent conduct. He generally performed the English service, after his father or Mr. Gerlach had officiated in the Portuguese language.

‘The presidency chaplains occasionally assisted Mr. Kiernander, and they continued to do so till he was obliged to leave his charge and retire to Chinsurah. Among several seals to the ministry of these servants of Christ, there were some distinguished persons from among the Portuguese, and even a few from among the British, notwithstanding the general depravity of manners and life then exhibited by them in Calcutta. Amongst the former may be particularly reckoned Mr. Charles Weston. Asiaticus says that he was a son of the Recorder, was born in Calcutta in 1731—was the friend and associate of Holwell, and carried arms as a militia man in 1756. His riches were great, but his poverty of spirit and true Christian humility were still

greater, as some now living can perhaps testify. He was a father to the poor, the ready friend of the friendless, wherever he could find them out, and a great promoter of religion, giving largely of his substance, and influencing by his example. To every public institution he was a bountiful contributor; and in a private way, many tasted largely of his affluence, often without knowing from whom it came: his left hand knew not what his right hand did. A gentleman in Calcutta, who had been in affluent circumstances, became so reduced that he was about to sell his horses, carriages, and household furniture. As soon as Mr. Weston heard of it, he forwarded a sum of money, promising that the same should be continued monthly, with a request that he would continue his usual style of living. His friend afterward found out who it was, that thus befriended him, and Mr. Weston continued the allowance whilst the person lived. This circumstance appeared the more remarkable, as Mr. Weston himself never used any other conveyance than a palkee, had a plain house, as plainly furnished, and his table, at which I was frequently a guest, though plentiful, was never luxurious; he was very abstemious in his own living, though liberal in giving. This truly honourable man passed the latter years of his life at Chinsurah, amid a group of necessitous people, soothed and supported by his bounty. One hundred gold mohurs a month were regularly distributed to the indigent from a box placed on his table. He died in the month of December 1809, leaving various monies for charitable purposes, and was buried in the Protestant burial ground in Calcutta.

‘There were several other converts who also adorned their Christian profession, and the blessed Redeemer was not without witness where his gospel was preached; but its power and efficacy shone chiefly among the poor, who are generally little known.

‘From what I remember of the seriousness and devotion which pervaded the mission congregation, I am



persuaded of the truth of that passage in the Memorial Sketches, in which it is said, that Mr. Brown found in Calcutta, in 1786, a small body of pious Christians, and in a course of years had the happiness of discovering that in hidden and unexplored retreats, there were unthought-of individuals who lived the life of faith on the Son of God, and walked in the paths of his commandments ; and some who in the utmost privacy, had exerted themselves to stem the torrent of surrounding evil by their religious example in their families, and in maintaining and superintending schools for the instruction of heathen children. Among the rich and great who were not ashamed of the cross of Christ, were Mr. Charles Grant, Sir Robert Chambers, and his brother Mr. W. Chambers, who with their families, were among the constant worshippers or attendants of those days in the mission church, together with some others of respectability. Mrs. Anne Chambers, it may be remarked, had at an advanced period of life accompanied her sons, Sir Robert and Mr. William Chambers to India. She was a constant attendant at the mission church, and died on the 7th of February, 1782, aged 69 years. Here and there we recognize the name of one we have seen and heard of in those days amongst the old epitaphs. Among them that of Mrs. Chapman, who kept a school and brought up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord—who was a widow indeed, one who trusted in God—her appearance was as venerable as her life was useful and exemplary : no weather, no infirmities kept her from the house of God so long as she could attend, and her place was regularly filled nearly to the end. She departed this life on the 23rd of January 1784, aged sixty-three years.

‘ I well remember Mr. Diemer weeping after his return from her funeral, and saying, We have lost a Christian indeed, but it is gain to her. The charity-school, supported principally by Mr. Kiernander, has also produced several excellent Christian characters ; and some who are now in affluent circumstances have to thank-

ful to that institution which called forth their latent abilities, and enabled them to become what they now are.'

Mr. Charles Grant was born in the year 1748. He went out to India about the usual age, and returned to his native land after a residence of thirty years in the year 1795, where he continued to devote his great powers for another thirty years to the highest interests of the eastern world.

He had been awakened to a deep sense of serious and personal piety in India, about the year 1778, in the midst of a scene of overwhelming domestic sorrow, by the means of a pupil and friend of the great missionary Swartz,—Mr. Chambers, whose name is mentioned above in connection with Mr. Grant's, and he thenceforth continued till the close of life, a period of nearly half a century, to exhibit both in India and England the genuine fruits of real Christianity. Cautious and wise, perhaps in the eyes of some, slow in making up his mind,—he was conscientious, firm, and honourable in all his proceedings, as well as bold and unhesitating in upholding the sacred cause of Christianity.

As a leading director, and frequently the chairman or deputy-chairman of the honourable court, he gradually acquired by his intuition, his sound judgment, his application to business, his reach of mind, his power of combination and forethought, his transparent disinterestedness, that influence in the councils of the India government which has not often been paralleled.

During the same period he stood forth in the House of Commons, supported by his two fine sons, as a pillar in the midst of the land. There, with the small but mighty band of Christian statesmen, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. H. Thornton, Mr. Babington, and a few others, he ultimately won almost every cause of humanity and piety in which he was engaged.

In the conduct of our religious institutions, and especially of the British and Foreign Bible, Church Missionary, and Jews' Conversion Societies, Mr. Grant took a leading part.

In one view in particular, India owes a debt to this eminent person which can scarcely be too highly estimated. His labours in increasing the number of chaplains in the Honourable Company's establishment, in improving and regulating their salaries and retiring pensions, and in selecting for chaplains clergymen of undoubted talents, piety, and devotedness to their profession, were unremitting. To secure this last point, the most important of all, he did not rely altogether on his own judgment, but engaged the advice of a thoroughly competent and experienced friend resident at one of the universities ; and thus assisted he not unfrequently exchanged other patronage for that of chaplaincies, in order to carry out his great object. It is to this we owe that class of eminently holy men who united the character of the missionary and the chaplain in so high a degree ; and of which David Brown, Claudius Buchanan, Henry Martyn, Daniel Corrie, late bishop of Madras, the present bishop of Bombay, Thomason, and a host of others, were conspicuous ornaments.

Some particulars collected from persons who were acquainted with him, may here be introduced respecting one, who was distinguished among the few righteous persons of that day by a remarkable simplicity and godly sincerity of character, and who proved, to a considerable degree, the means of keeping alive that spirit of piety which then began, in a more especial manner, to manifest itself. This person was John Christian Obeck. He was born in 1730, in the city of Magdeburg in Prussia. At a very early age, the truths of the gospel sunk deep into his heart, and held a happy and abiding influence on his life. He used to say ' Before I was fifteen, the Saviour was very precious to me, and was altogether a *Jesus*—a Saviour from sin. His walk through life was consistent with his early profession.

He arrived at Tranquebar, on the coast, in the year 1755, then in his 26th year. We find him acting as clerk and schoolmaster under the Rev. Mr. Hutteman,

at Cudalore, in 1762 : the following year, 1763, he married Anna Elizabeth Mayer, of Pullicat ; after this, he was several years with the venerable and apostolic Swartz, acting as schoolmaster and catechist, and with him he continued until he became known to Mr. William Chambers, with whom he came round to Calcutta in 1777.

In 1782, he accompanied Mr. Charles Grant to Mal-dah, and continued in that family until Mr. Grant left India. When that liberal friend of good men left the country, he continued to the worthy Obeck a comfortable pension, so that the pious old man was henceforth relieved from the care of earning his daily bread at an advanced stage of life, and had leisure afforded him to enjoy himself in those things in which he most delighted—communion with his God ; &c. and as he shone brighter and brighter towards the evening of life, so he endeavoured to allure all over whom he had any influence, to become fellow-partakers with him of the free grace of God in Christ.

In his living he was very temperate, almost abstemious. He had a remarkably healthy frame of body, being rarely indisposed, and then very slightly. He was seldom so ill as to keep his bed or room a whole day, until his last sickness came on, and then he said, '*It is unto death.*'

He had not had the benefit of what is called a liberal education, but with him the fear of the Lord was the beginning of wisdom, and not only the beginning, but a well-spring of life, continually supplying him on every occasion with a word in season. His judgment was so sound that all who had the privilege of being acquainted with him, used to advise on matters prudential as well as spiritual with him, and his influence over a considerable circle was much beyond what falls to the lot of most in his circumstances.

Turning from these brief notices of individual piety, we may now review the improvement in European society, which had already commenced, and which gra-

dually introduced greater facilities for the moral and religious improvement of all classes.

For many years after the East India Company had obtained territory in India ; their contest with the native powers, and their unhappy divisions among themselves, occupied the whole attention of the British ; but gradually, as their situation became more secure, and the measures of government and commerce better arranged, individuals among them began to give their attention to the languages and literature of the country. With a view principally to supply competent interpreters of Mahomedan law, who should be able to assist the judges of the Zillah courts in their decisions in matters of life and property, the Madrassa, or College for Arabic learning in Calcutta, was founded by Governor Hastings in 1781 ; and with a view to supply equally competent interpreters of Hindu law, the Sanscrit College at Benares was afterwards founded. These establishments cost the government 20,000 rupees a year each ; and, in order to render them efficient, it has been found necessary to add to each an European secretary or superintendent.

Individuals also, at the period already referred to, had begun to cultivate an acquaintance with the literature of the country. Among these, Mr. Halhed was most conspicuous. In 1776, he set himself to study Bengalee and Sanscrit, and in 1778 published a grammar of the Bengalee, to which is added a grammar of the Hindostanee. About the same time, Mr. Wilkins set himself to apply the art of printing to the languages of the East. In this pursuit he was indefatigable. He originated the models, prepared the materials, and shared the manual labour with the native assistants. Among the first specimens of his typographical skill, was Mr. Halhed's Bengalee grammar, and to his font of Bengalee types he afterwards added others in the Nagri and Persian characters.

In the latter end of 1788, Sir William Jones arrived in India. Eminently great in various departments of

science, it belongs to this sketch to notice chiefly the influence his character excited on the religious interests of the community. Among the several objects of inquiry which he proposed to himself in India are noted : 'Proofs and illustrations of Scripture—traditions concerning the Deluge—to print and publish the Gospel of St. Luke in Arabic—to print and publish the Psalms of David in Persian verse.'

With those subjects, among others in his mind, he applied himself to the study of the Sanscrit language, and to him we are particularly indebted for overcoming the reluctance of the Brahmins to communicate the knowledge contained in their shasters. He is said to have given his teacher, a pundit of the Vydia, or medical caste, 500 rupees a month. And thus, by a well-directed liberality, opened the means of instruction on more moderate terms to future students.

The growing spirit which thus began to display itself for the cultivation of eastern literature, was further cherished and embodied by the institution of the Asiatic Society in 1784. For this institution also, India is indebted to Sir William Jones. There the kindred minds which then adorned India, collected round the illustrious founder, seconded his labours and began those researches which have so much attracted the learned in Europe, and thrown such light on the languages, literature, and antiquities of India.

It must not be concealed however, that many who engaged in these pursuits, were instigated by no love for the literature of the Bible. An idea had become prevalent among learned men in the continent of Europe, excited perhaps by communications from India, that in the long-concealed Brahminical records, evidence would be found to invalidate the truth of the Bible as a revelation from God. It cannot be doubted that some of the most eminent oriental scholars in India at the period we are writing of, entertained the same opinion.

The statements which occur in the writings of Sir William Jones, as to his readiness to reject the Bible

should anything be discovered in Eastern records, to invalidate its authority, indicate the state of mind rather of his associates than of his own. To his discerning and pious mind, the invalidating of the truth of the Bible must have appeared impossible, independent of his remarkable testimony to the purity and sublimity of its contents, which has been so often quoted, and so much and justly admired.

Little however as the eastern scholars of that day in India, intended to help on the propagation of Christian knowledge, they were removing those obstacles to the acquisition of those languages of India, and to the printing of the sacred Scriptures in those languages which must otherwise have long impeded the progress of missionary labour; and it is deserving of notice, that one of the very men who had assisted Mr. Wilkins in the preparation of his types, offered his services to the missionaries of Serampore, a few months after their settlement there. His services were accepted, and in the course of a few years he instructed a number of his countrymen in the same art. By these, others have been instructed, till there is no longer any difficulty in obtaining fonts of types in any of the Indian alphabets.

As the means in the course of an all-wise providence were thus provided, both for translating and printing the sacred scriptures, so the desire to employ those means was kindling in the minds of men peculiarly fitted for the arduous work.

Among these Mr. W. Chambers deserves particular mention. He was prothonotary and Persian interpreter to the supreme court. He possessed superior literary talents, and a fine taste, and these were sanctified by sound piety and devotedness to the interests of Christian religion, of which he was a steady and prudent promoter, wherever he could find an opportunity. The giving the sacred Scriptures to his Indian fellow-subjects, was to him a matter of conscientious and earnest desire. With this end in view he addressed himself to translate the New Testament both into Persian and

Hindoostanee. For this work he was eminently qualified, not only by his skill in the languages, but also by the cordial love of divine truth with which his heart now glowed. Opportunity however was not allowed for, his making much progress in the work.

Shortly before this time, the Moravian brethren endeavoured to establish a mission in Bengal, and sent out three missionaries for that purpose: their names were Latrobe, Raabs, and Smith. They took a house in Park Street, but did not succeed, and were soon scattered. Latrobe died at Chinsurah or Serampore, Raabs on the Malay coast, and Smith in Calcutta in August 1783.

It was in this year (1783) Mr. John Thomas, afterwards the colleague of Dr. Carey, arrived in Calcutta as surgeon of the Oxford indiaman. His proceedings as connected with the labours of the Baptist Missionary Society at this presidency, which commenced ten years afterwards, deserve to be noticed particularly, as they also throw a light on the state of society here. In writing to the Baptist Society he informs them—

‘I advertised for a Christian; and that I may not be misunderstood, I shall subjoin a copy of the advertisement, from the India Gazette, of Nov. 1, 1783.

‘RELIGIOUS SOCIETY.’

‘A plan is now forming for more effectually spreading the knowledge of Jesus Christ and his glorious Gospel in and about Bengal. Any serious persons of any denomination, rich or poor, high or low, who would heartily approve of joining in, or gladly forward such an undertaking, are hereby invited to give a small testimony of their inclination, that they may enjoy the satisfaction of forming a communion the most useful, the most comfortable, and the most exalted in the world.’

‘Direct A. B. C., to be left with the editor.’

‘The two following answers were received the next day. The first is ascribed to Mr. W. Chambers:—

“If A. B. C. will open a subscription for a translation of the New Testament in the Persian and Hindoostanee languages, (under the direction of proper persons) he will meet with every assistance he can desire, and a competent number of subscribers to defray the expense.”

“The Rev. Mr. — having read the advertisement of A. B. C. in this day’s paper, takes the earliest opportunity of expressing his satisfaction of a proposal, for the more effectually propagating and making known the truth of the Christian religion in this country of superstition, idolatry, and irreligion, and for setting forth the excellency of the holy institution so replete with the means of rendering mankind happy both here and hereafter, most cordially offers his services for promoting and encouraging so laudable an undertaking, and will think himself happy if he can be at all instrumental in bringing it to any degree of success.

“Mr. — from the above reasons, therefore, wishes an opportunity of conferring with the advertiser on the occasion.”

The Reverend writer is said by Mr. Thomas to have been a chaplain to the presidency, and is supposed to have been the Rev. Mr. Owen, who, it will be seen hereafter, was a sincere friend and faithful supporter of such measures as were then found practicable, for the promoting of Christian knowledge, among both the British and Indian communities.

We must not here omit to notice the establishment now known as the Military Orphan School. It affords a remarkable attestation to the growing regard to the cause of religion and humanity among the European society of that day ; and in its consequences has produced the most valuable effects to society in general.

The institution was successful to the hands and active exertion of the staff. The project was circulated throughout the institution and met with approval of the superior officers of the institution. Towards the necessary management of operations the institution was rendered unnecessary.

The general management approved by the institution was to acquaint the directors, with the management and support of the orphans of the institution till the pleasure of the institution. On other points connected with the institution, ascertained, according to the institution for the orphans in the institution.

In the course of the institution, by the general management, by the general management, on a fixed allowance of the European management in the company's service with the health of the institution. No pains had been taken in the spring of the European establishment (with the soldiers still living) a fact but too well known of their natural talents that owing to the European management, the institution was interrupted in a degree. This arrangement of the institution, the orphan establishment, the lower school, was fixed.

Respecting the institution

and write about it. A sharp rebuke, for not subject in his whole of many quarrels this I think. Last evening at Aleppo, and found a but this man must heard of a Turk command and seemed to rouse me to get on in his sent me a letter from Moonshee, containing appears to me almost yet dared to show fifteen chapters in us. Such stuff as I Knith. This he has has been strangely Moonshee this but should alter his named Rasheed's.

It will be high the Hindoostanee's But I shall not turn his head and wish the revisal of day at sunrise I d-quarters; several. On account are changed for men of the 53rd to Cawnpore, compliments to long friends. Do being on a journey your rupees, for

Sincerely,
H. MARTYN.

The institution was planned, and owed much of its success to the humane and comprehensive mind and active exertions of Colonel, then Captain Kirkpatrick. The proposal for its establishment was circulated throughout the army in the latter end of 1782, and met with almost unanimous approbation. The superior officers of the army contributed so largely towards the necessary expenses attending the commencement of operations, that a general appeal to the public was rendered unnecessary.

The general management began to act on the arrangement approved by the army in March 1783. Their first care was to acquaint the government, and the court of directors, with their plans, and to elicit their countenance and support. It was at first intended to send all the orphans of officers to England for education ; but till the pleasure of the court of directors on this, and other points connected with the institution, should be ascertained, accommodations were obtained in Calcutta for the orphans in want of immediate care.

In the course of the year it was proposed to government, by the general management, to take under their care, on a fixed allowance for each child, the children also of the European non-commissioned officers and privates in the company's service, stating besides reasons connected with the health of the children, that hitherto little or no pains had been taken to render the numerous offspring of the Europeans belonging to the army of the establishment (whether orphans or the children of soldiers still living) useful to the community : it being a fact but too well known, that not only the cultivation of their natural talents had been totally neglected ; but that owing to the habits unavoidably contracted in an European regiment, their morals also had been corrupted in a degree too shocking to be described. To this arrangement the government agreed, and finally, the orphan establishment, consisting of the upper and lower school, was fixed at Howrah.

Respecting the establishment thus formed, one of its

original friends and advocates, a field officer, described its object to be, to give a useful and Christian education to a continued succession of 500 children born of European fathers, and Indian mothers, whose nurture and education had been hitherto so totally neglected, that they had, until now, *been wholly lost to society.*

Though the primary intention of the founders of the institution was to succour the friendless, and render useful to the community, subjects hitherto neglected, yet the officer above alluded to, and no doubt others also, entertained still higher expectations from this work of charity and mercy. Pleading the cause of the Bengal Military Orphan Society, he urged that when the plan of the society should be generally adopted, the happy result would be that more than 1000 hitherto neglected and destitute infants of both sexes would be constantly training up in a course of religious and useful instruction, so as not only to become valuable subjects of the state, but what is of infinitely more consequence, be made the happy instruments of spreading the knowledge of the divine religion of Jesus Christ, and the useful arts of polished society, throughout the benighted and idolatrous nations of Asia. The writer of this sketch can testify that these anticipations have by no means been disappointed. Society has acquired many useful members of both sexes from this institution, and it is worthy of remark, that several individuals of both the upper and lower schools, have of late years been among the most active and zealous in diffusing the knowledge of Christianity among the natives under this presidency.

But this result has not been brought about without the watchful and unremitting care of the successive members of the general management. On the institution being fairly established, masters were sought for from England to take charge of the education of the orphans, and through Colonel Kirkpatrick, who had been obliged to visit England from ill health, the Rev. David Brown was among the first engaged to watch over the infant establishment.

Of him, the author of the preface to 'Memorial Sketches,' who was among his earliest friends, truly says, that Mr. Brown, if not actually the founder of all the great missionary institutions which have been established of late years, and of the plans which have been carried into effect for translating the scriptures into all the languages of the east, laboured in the field as much as any who have followed him, and strove to the utmost of his power to kindle that very flame which has burned, and is now burning in almost every quarter of the globe.

The life of the Rev. David Brown was prolonged through a course of twenty-seven years in Calcutta, and it cannot be denied but that the tone of morals and habits of society experienced great improvement during that period. It is not to be inferred that Mr. Brown alone contributed to this evident improvement. Yet it must be admitted that the influence of his personal character and public ministrations for so long a period cannot but have had a powerful influence and a considerable share in it. It will not then be a vain pursuit if we endeavour to ascertain what it was in Mr. Brown which led to such long and disinterested labours for the benefit of his fellow-creatures, as his life exhibits; this we may gather from the authentic materials supplied in '*Memorial Sketches*,' a work of much interest and of general reference. It appears hence to have been generally *an early experience of the grace of God, raising him from a death in sin to a life of righteousness.*

In a memorandum found among his papers, he gratefully acknowledges—'Thy goodness like the sun dawned on my early days—a godly grandfather who poured out many prayers for me—parents who attended to the instructions given them by the ministers of God—early acquaintance with the Reverends Jesse, Stillington, Milner—mercies all flowing from my God!' And in a short sketch he drew up of the early part of his life, his words are: 'Through a merciful providence I escaped the pollutions of youth—and through

the same providence I was disciplined by sickness just before I went to Cambridge. At this time I experienced the gospel to be the power of God unto salvation, in a most sensible manner.' And in another retrospection, he speaks of that sickness 'as a severe illness nigh unto death, before I went to college, which was greatly blessed to my soul.'

With a mind thus brought under a divine influence which strengthened with his years, he *devoted himself to the service of God in the ministry of the Church of England*, and having finished his preparatory studies at the grammar school at Hull, he proceeded to Magdalen College, Cambridge.

The circumstances which led to Mr. Brown's going to India are thus related :—'During his residence at college he corresponded with a friend in London on serious subjects, and related some successful efforts made to do good among the poor and destitute.' He observes—'That friend communicated my letters to a Major of the East India Company's service ; the result was, he wished to be acquainted with me—wished to serve me, and introduced himself by letter as follows, before I had even heard of his name, which made the application appear the more wonderful.'

' TO MR. D. BROWN.

'SIR,

* * * * *

'The officers belonging to the army in Bengal have formed themselves into a society for the benevolent purpose of supporting, educating, and introducing into life the orphans of both sexes belonging to indigent deceased officers of that settlement : they have twenty-five male, and twenty-one female children under their care, in Bengal. Their intentions are to send these children to be educated in England, when they arrive at a certain age ; but as they propose to have a superintendent of the institution in India, they have authorized a captain of the Bengal army, lately arrived

in England, and on the point of re-embarking for India, to look out for a married young gentleman, (a clergyman in preference,) to proceed to India in one of the ships of this season. The prospects are such as, in my estimation, hold out a most flattering view to whatever gentleman may be fixed on ; and I presume it would to you be a very great additional inducement, in furnishing you an opportunity of instilling the knowledge of salvation by Jesus Christ into the minds of young persons, most of whom will probably spend their lives among the heathen nations of India. As the gentleman embarks for India in ten days, you must make an immediate choice. I have prevailed on him to wait for your answer until Thursday morning ; and if you have thoughts of accepting the offer, it will be necessary for you to come to town without the loss of a moment.

* * * * *

Sir, your's &c.,

A. MITCHELL.'

London, Feb. 1785.

'When this letter reached me at college,' writes Mr. B., 'I was just recovering from a long indisposition. Many objections immediately occurred to me ; I foresaw them all at a rapid glance, and settled in my mind that I might decline the offer with a good conscience : above all, I was too young for priest's orders, and without ordination I was resolved to accept of no service or situation whatever. I acquainted some of my serious friends with the import of the major's letter, and my sentiments upon it. They differed from me in judgment ; they thought it was the voice of providence, and that so unexpected and singular an application, which so fairly promised to advance my usefulness, ought not to be disregarded. I submitted to their counsel, but not before I had besought the wisdom and direction of the Father of light. I must say that from this time I went by the judgment of others rather than my own, and resolved to leave the matter

to the decision of three tried friends in the church ; and their written opinion I resolved at all events to follow, though in my own mind inclined to sit still and enjoy the tranquillity of college life, and the dear delights of pious and literary friendship there. In this too I was dissented from ; and was advised to visit the major, if it was only to return him a proper attention. On the 15th I was introduced to him in town ; I found him a gentleman of great resolution and perseverance, and well skilled in the active scenes of life ; he feared not to get me through the difficulties of ordination, and all others that might oppose themselves to the plan : the next two days were taken up in seeing Captain Kirkpatrick, the agent and secretary to the Bengal Orphan Society, and in advising with my family. Some difficulties, as expected, arose on the subject of receiving ordination at so short notice, when the late Dr. Watson, Bishop of Llandaff, was at length induced to favour his views, and ‘I set off,’ writes Mr. B., ‘for Cambridge the following day, for the necessary papers which the Bishop directed me to procure, and with these I again waited on him on the 25th ; but he appearing now to feel some hesitation on the subject, I caught at it, and said, ‘My Lord, I am satisfied, I shall return to college ; for my views have been to the ministry, and without ordination I shall not go to India, whatever offers are made me.’ After a pause, however, he said he would ordain me, and that he would also have given me priest’s orders the day following, if I had been of age to receive them. He appointed the next day for my examination, and ordained me the day after.

‘The bishop showed me a truly pastoral regard ; he knew my principles, my purposes, and my views ; he conducted a long and close examination of me himself, and gave me much valuable advice, which has been a great comfort and support to me. His last words were, ‘Go in peace, and may the blessing of God go with you. Do all the good you can, and if it is no better for you in this world, it will be in the world to come.’

Mr. Brown's chief object in accepting the appointment to India was *the furtherance of the Christian religion on the earth*. Riches or personal aggrandizement, says the writer of 'Memorial Sketches,' were not even of secondary moment in his mind. His sole consideration throughout life was whether his labours or possessions could in any way be made subservient to the glory of God in Jesus Christ.

These were the sentiments of one who knew Mr. Brown in the nearest relation of life, and seeing death has long since set the seal of authenticity upon what might otherwise have been suspected of being only the ebullition of a youthful and generous mind, we may refer in confirmation to his own memoranda of his feelings at the period referred to :—

'The Captain (Kirkpatrick) expecting to sail, wished to have the articles of agreement filled up ; but how was the major surprised to find he had misunderstood the offer—that there were no fewer than 500 children on the Orphan Establishment, and that the salary was considerably less than he had first stated to me ; however this unexpected obstacle was easily removed, for since a larger sphere of usefulness was thus opened to my view I regretted not the diminution of salary.'

A time in painful suspense occasioned by disappointment in obtaining a passage occurred it seems after the arrangements with Captain Kirkpatrick were completed. The extracts which follow from a journal kept by Mr. Brown at this time shew with what humble resignation to the divine will he waited the event :—

'“The Lord is with you while ye be with him.” I desire to be with the Lord in my intention, and to acknowledge him in all my ways. Let not ambition lead me to mistake his will, nor inglorious depression to desert his cause, then I will not fear ; strength and victory are secured to me by this promise. I will set the Lord against all my fears, inabilities, and wants, and tell the enemies of my soul that He that is for me, is greater than all that are against me.

‘We have no cause to fear while we are about the Lord’s business. He will enable us to execute whatever he commandeth. Life will soon be over, it signifies little where I am or whither I go, what dangers, perils, or comforts I meet with on my way to a better country—to *heaven my home*. Much less than a hundred years will put an end to sin, the cause of every pain; and provided it shall be found that I have served the Lord Jesus, it will not matter where, at London or Calcutta. I wait to see whether it please the Lord to honour me with a commission to the East, or to give the work to others better and fitter for the discharge of it.’

This was certainly a right spirit, a disciplined, chastened spirit. At length all obstacles being removed, Mr. Brown embarked for India, and reached the place of his destination, and entered on his charge June 8th, 1786, when the following pious and characteristic reflections were entered in his journal:—

‘I this day entered upon my solemn charge as chaplain of this foundation, the Military Orphan Establishment. May these souls committed to my care be led to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus, and be instructed in all right things to the praise and glory of God! O Lord, my joy will be to see them trained in the way they should go; but give thou them thy Spirit, which alone can direct and keep them in right paths.’

On his arrival in Calcutta, through the influence of the late Mr. Charles Grant, Mr. Brown was appointed chaplain to a brigade: this from very unexpected circumstances led to his becoming presidency chaplain, and finally provost of the college of Fort William on its first establishment. In this way opportunities of accumulating wealth were opened which put his principles to no common trial, out of which however they came pure and uncorrupted. ‘My prayer,’ said he, in a letter to a friend written in 1802, ‘is now principally directed against the root of all evil—the *love* of money. It has cast off from me on the right hand and on the left many of whom I hoped

better things. Oh when shall the Lord's people turn not again to folly ! There are few who do it not in some way or other ; I have compassion, having myself also been tempted ; but from what I have seen I dread particularly the consequences of growing rich, not that I am in any danger of being so, but a *very little* money does the business, one thousand or ten thousand a year is the same in operation. 'Give me neither poverty nor riches,' is a safe prayer, it is a prayer against riches, and as such I use it, though in no likelihood of becoming rich ; if more come than occasion require, I trust I shall cast my bread upon the waters, the Lord help me so to do !' In 1806 the same sentiment is expressed in even more striking terms :—'The idea of making a competency and returning to England to enjoy it, never occupied my attention for a single moment, because utterly impracticable under present circumstances. I might, it is very true, in the course of years have made some independence if I would have walked in crooked paths, but from which I have been in mercy preserved.'

It not being intended to enter on Mr. Brown's history further than as tending to show the influence he must have exerted on the progress of religion in Calcutta, we will not here notice the sacrifices of a personal nature he made in leaving scenes so agreeable to nature as the prospect of literary distinction and the rewards which usually follow it at college ; and especially of one so formed for the enjoyments of friendship in tearing himself away from the society of pious relatives and associates, and the company of many of the excellent of the earth, who cherished the opening appearances of piety and talent in him with paternal fondness. It may be sufficient to observe that the pious and learned Dean Milner gave the highest possible testimonial of his piety and learning to the committee of general management.

Among those to whom the arrival of Mr. Brown in Calcutta was a most welcome event, was Mr. Charles

Grant, so long the able and influential chairman of the court of Directors, and then member of the Board of Trade in Bengal. With reference to the part he took in upholding the mission of the Christian Knowledge Society, ready at this time to fail through various untoward events, it may be observed that previous to that gentleman's residence in Calcutta, he had been commercial president at Maldah. Here his active concern for the interests of religion, manifested itself in various ways. By his influence, men of tried character were placed at the head of different factories in that neighbourhood, who proved inestimable blessings to all around them, the effects of which are still to be seen. Among these may be named as well known, Mr. W. Brown, Mr. W. Grant, Mr. Henry Creighton, and Mr. John Ellerton. In these the natives saw the true Christian character exhibited, and felt its effects in the liberality of their dealings, and the extensive charity exercised towards the poor and afflicted. Schools were established in different villages, in which portions of Scripture and other small books were read. Mr. Ellerton employed his leisure in translating the New Testament into Bengalee, and Dialogues on the book of Genesis, now one of the most popular of books in the Bengalee language, and deservedly valued as an excellent school-book.

It has been stated that Mr. Kiernander found himself in circumstances, at the decline of life, which threatened the total ruin of the mission. The late lamented Bishop Corrie states that he had been informed by persons who had abundant opportunity of knowing the truth, that this calamity was brought upon him by the failure in business of a person for whom he had become surety. From his exceedingly generous habits Mr. Keirnander had made no provision for such an event, and the seal of the sheriff of Calcutta was, in 1787, affixed to the gates of *Beth-Tephillah*, which as part of his own personal property, became subject to the law.

The venerable patriarch was now in the 76th year of

his age, and the 47th of his residence in India, an age at which in any climate he must feel severely the reverse of circumstances. It was in reference to this event, he wrote, that the most sad period of his life was when by old age, fatigue, and other vexations, he was compelled to leave his post when there was no one to take it up and carry it on. But he adds, how wonderfully Divine providence interfered to my great comfort! Three friends were ready, surely by Divine appointment,—the Mission Church was redeemed, and thereby gained kind and careful patrons—Grant, Chambers, and Brown; be their good works never forgotten! Mr. Grant alone paid the sum of ten thousand rupees, at which the Church was valued, and Mr. Brown engaged to officiate in it, which he continued to do for twenty-three years without fee or reward. On the last day of October 1787, the property of the Church was transferred by a deed of trust to Mr. William Chambers, Rev. David Brown, and Mr. Charles Grant, jointly under an engagement on their part, for themselves and their successors, that the building should for ever remain appropriated to the purposes for which it was erected.

Some further particulars recorded in '*Memorial Sketches*,' require to be inserted here, as connected with the progress of religion at this period.

Mr. Brown on accepting the appointment to assist in the education of the children of the Orphan School, had particular regard to the influence the youth of both sexes, so educated, were likely to have in promoting genuine religion generally throughout the country. He had therefore, before he left England, been introduced to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and elected a corresponding member of that body, under a promise of supplying information respecting their India missions.

During the voyage he employed himself in the study of Hindoostanee, and soon after his arrival at Calcutta, he applied himself strenuously to the acquisition of Ben-

galee, with a special reference to a translation of the Scriptures into that language for the benighted heathen.

Writing to his parents in 1787, Mr. Brown says, 'My heart's cares and pains are 'for the ministry, and the real conversion of souls to God among my countrymen in this land : my mind also is perpetually busied about the heathen, whom I long to see members of that Lord whose cross is my hope. Some who fear God in this country have joined in proposing a mission, and I have been busied some time in drawing up papers relative to this business, and hope you will pray that the Lord may prosper this work with His blessing.'

The papers here referred to, about which Mr. Brown speaks of himself as engaged, are thus described in the preface to 'Memorial Sketches.'

'The very year after he went to Calcutta, before the great Missionary Societies or the Bible Society had been thought of, this honoured servant of Christ, in conjunction with two other friends in India, who most gladly co-operated with him, drew up a "Proposal for establishing a Protestant Mission in Bengal and Bahar." In this he urges, with great force and energy, the claims of the natives upon our government, and the duty of imparting to them the privileges which we enjoy, as well in a religious as in a civil point of view. He recommends the measure of translating the Scriptures into the different languages of the East, and the sending forth missionaries to instruct them, fit men, of free minds, disinterested, zealous and patient of labour, who would accept of an invitation, and aspire to the arduous office of a missionary.'

In this document he considers,—what sort of men are to be chosen, in what manner they are to be supported, and what plan is to be pursued by them. Under the first of these heads the description given by Mr. Brown, of the persons whom he wanted to fill the situation of missionaries, shows exactly what he himself was both in heart and life. After assigning his reasons for desiring to have young clergymen of the established

work, which, as the grain of mustard-seed, may spread out into some considerable effect.

‘ From a conviction of the great advantage that would arise to missionaries from the accurate knowledge of Sanscrit, it is proposed that the acquisition of this language should be made a prime object ; as it is the basis of the Bengalee, as well as of several other eastern tongues, and it contains the mythology, laws, history, and literature of the Hindoos. . A knowledge of the Sanscrit is necessary for giving a pure translation of the scriptures ; and such is the poverty of the Bengalee, that it would be difficult to preach the gospel with the dignity becoming it without the use of Sanscrit. It is therefore proposed, that forthwith two young clergymen be sent as missionaries to India. They will come immediately to Bengal, and remain with us at Calcutta. It will then be advisable that they fix for about three years at that famous seat of Hindoo learning, Benares, which is about six hundred miles journey west from Calcutta, in a higher latitude ; a pleasant and healthy situation, where living is cheap. There they may study and furnish themselves with languages. After which they may begin their glorious work, of giving the Gentiles light, with every probability of success.

‘ A few words are necessary for the qualifications of two persons for engaging in this design. You will be aware that zeal and grace, though essentials, are not the only requisites on this occasion.

‘ They need be men of general knowledge, and possess such a share of science as may make their conversation interesting to the learned brahmins, who will only be communicative in proportion to the returns made by those with whom they converse. The qualification necessary to a character in which the pious student and prudent missionary are to be united, are obvious enough.

‘ The young men should obtain some public recommendation through the Bishop of London, or others, to this government, which is essential on every account. You will perhaps have some difficulties at home, but

the Lord, if he favours the work, will carry you through them.

‘If a mission can be brought forward upon a public foundation, the two gentlemen now invited will consequently be put upon it, and thence derive their provision ; but till that takes place, it is agreed they shall be allowed £350. per annum. This will be a subsistence for them, but nothing can be saved from it. If therefore you have found two men of zeal and talents fit for this arduous work, let them come. A sufficiency of bread is offered them, but nothing to excite a spirit of adventure, or to tempt to worldly views. Before you can receive this, I hope some steps have been taken by those in power, toward a mission establishment. But the great move slowly in such matters ; and it cannot be otherwise expected, unless they had spiritual as well as political views.

‘Perhaps Dr. Watson (Bishop of Llandaff) will be pleased with the idea of two young men coming out to study Sanscrit at Benares. You will probably think proper to communicate this to him, his recommendation of such an undertaking would be a favourable circumstance. His name is known here, and is of great weight.

‘I will not conclude without again expressing my hope that all obstacles will be surmounted, and that Providence will open a way through all discouragements for the Gospel to pass into India. If the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge would give any assistance, how gladly will it be accepted.’

Whilst these measures were pursued for the general extension of missionary efforts, Mr. Brown was not sparing of personal labour or expense in the same cause. He took great pains to inform himself of the actual state of Hindu society. He went occasionally among them in a way not usual with the English ; he attended in their domestic circles, their literary and religious entertainments. Writing to a friend a few years after his arrival in Bengal, Mr. Brown

says :—‘Late at a Brahmin’s house I heard a wonderful man, a Purani, explaining their shasters with astonishing address and elocution. He frequently made the people burst into tears, and weep aloud. Whenever their passions were touched with any pathetic passage, the man obtained several rupees, thrown to him both by Brahmans and Sooders; the latter accompanied their donation with a *pranam*, or act of worship to the *Purani*.’

The result of these researches was communicated to a friend in the following very correct and discriminating remarks :—‘The (Hindu) system is extremely complex, and it is therefore very easy to misrepresent it. The moral state of the people is more palpable, and the grossness of the lower orders more open to attack. It is a great pity so little is yet known of their book-religion : facts would arise out of what is written, that would be the best instruments to overturn their superstition. There is clearly a total difference between the religion of the learned, and that of the common people. The learned are as subtle and ingenious as the most skilful of the Papists, and require similar arguments to subvert their system. All the educated and instructed that I have had the opportunity of seeing, assent to the unity of God, and they possess all the light of natural religion ; and I am persuaded, from what I have already seen, that they abound in moral maxims and in more refined sentiments than are to be found in any of the heathen classics known to us, and the insufficiency of natural religion is abundantly evident. I see in them the power of conscience, and that it costs them much effort to quench the light they have ; but I see less difference than I expected between the *natural man*, within the pale of the Church, and among the informed heathen. It is not professional Christianity, but Divine grace alone that can produce a real, essential, and *saving* difference.’

‘However, when we are possessed of the scattered rays of truth to be found in *Hinduism*, it will be a weapon of some value, for men always feel, and are pricked in

their hearts, when they are shown that they live in opposition to the light they have. The Yogees are a wonderful people, purely mystic ; they rise above caste, and all other worldly distinctions of Brahminism : they are learned, and, by imaginary excesses, attain heights of enthusiasm that Jacob Behmen never could have conceived. The history of the progression to this state of abstraction and delirium (for there are various degrees) forms a long and curious investigation, and when I am better qualified, I shall wish to trace the whole of it. The *self-tormentors*, who have often been confounded with the Yogees, are illiterate fanatics, and many of them vile and bestial fellows of the baser sort, and in no kind of repute with the well-informed. Besides, it is necessary to distinguish the bookish, secluded Pundits, who are simple, mild, and inoffensive to a great degree, from the heard-of domineering ignorant Brahmins, whose pride, craft, and villany, outdoes the Jew Pharisee, and whose contempt of the Sooders can only be expressed by these words. "This people who knoweth not the law is accursed." However, much guilt is on the head of the best of them for keeping the common people so grossly ignorant, and this may be successfully brought home to them, as well as to the Romanists, for by the invention of images a tenfold blindness is induced. In the Sooder, reason seems wholly unseated, and nothing is left them but the prerogative of the human form.'

Whilst Mr. Brown was thus anxious to obtain correct views of Hindu society, he was equally diligent in applying his knowledge to practical purposes.

'I am now beginning a native school : ' he writes, 'composed of Hindu children at the age of about four years, forsaken in a time of dearth by their destitute relations : some are entirely orphans. They will be taught to read English and Bengalee : a translation of the New Testament by an able hand, a pious and learned gentleman, is now being carried on for this purpose, so that I hope they will soon read the Scriptures in their own, and the English language. I mean to support them

partly by their own industry ; for this purpose I have bought some land, and am laying a foundation which, I trust, God will raise and prosper. The ground, &c., have cost me 1800 rupees (£180).

‘The low natives are so sunk in ignorance, that a knowledge of their own language reaches but a short way, to merely a few things around them : they are in sad want of ideas, and scarcely exercise their reason : these truths form a serious barrier to their conversion. They seem first to need improvement of intellect to enlarge the number of their ideas before they have even a capacity for receiving instruction in Christianity. Hence schools are the present favourite purpose in my mind, and I hope many will approve and promote the scheme at home.’

In reference to these proceedings of Mr. Brown, the author of the Preface to ‘Memorial Sketches,’ observes, ‘But the time for Israel’s deliverance was not yet come. Moses must wait yet many years before his desires can be carried into effect. The zeal and earnestness which have since that time been called forth into action, were not yet kindled in the public mind, and all the efforts which Mr. Brown then made fell to the ground for want of that support which he in vain solicited. Happily, however, he lived to see his wishes partially realized.

In this year, (1787) St. John’s Church (now called the Cathedral) was finished. Ever since 1756, public worship for the Presidency had been celebrated in a thatched Bungalow, situated in the Old Fort. The unsuitableness of this place became at length acknowledged, and measures were taken to erect the present place of worship. The body of this building stands on what was once the burial-ground of Calcutta.

The deed of purchase purports that Warren Hastings, Esq., paid to Raja Neokissen the sum of 10,000 rupees (£1000) for the ground. A committee was appointed as trustees of the property, and afterwards the members of what is now called the select vestry were elected *distinct* from the trustees. From neglect in not noting

the death or departure from India of individual trustees, and of not filling up vacancies, the select vestry became in process of time the sole managers of the property, and in defect of claimants as well as from the large sums supplied by government from time to time towards the necessary repairs of the building, the property has fallen to the government who, on the appointment of an ecclesiastical establishment, by virtue of the right so acquired, assigned to the Bishop of Calcutta, an episcopal seat and authority in the same.

About this time the managers of the Orphan Institution communicated with the Rev. David Brown, signifying to that gentleman that they could not allow of his continuing to officiate, at the mission church, and at the same time to hold the mastership of the institution ; expressing at the same time their sense of the laudable motives which influenced him. On mature deliberation, and with the advice of friends, Mr. Brown relinquished the Orphan School and devoted himself entirely to the Mission church, &c. He continued at the Orphan house till August 1788. On this occasion Mr. Brown writes to a friend, 'I trust this event will turn to the furtherance of the gospel, which will be a sufficient recompence for the temporal loss I suffer by the change. I am at present chaplain to the garrison at Fort William, where I alternately preach to the whole Bengal army, and I continue to officiate in Calcutta as usual. This is a large field to cultivate.' To the same friend he writes, 'respecting the native school I formerly mentioned as having in contemplation, I commenced, and had made considerable progress in the execution of my plan, but am at present obliged to suspend this design, partly owing to the change in my affairs on quitting the Orphan House, and partly from a want of proper teachers. Among so many Europeans of the lower order it is next to impossible to find a sober person to manage a school. At the Mission School under my direction I have had two masters, but they both proved profligate, so that I am obliged to dis-

charge them, and where to find another I know not.' Such was the then state of things among the European population.

The original idea in Mr. Brown's resignation of the Orphan School, was that of preserving the Mission Church as an open door for the gospel, when under adverse circumstances it was in danger of being shut for ever. It was then hoped that in the course of a year a supply of ministers might be obtained from England. With a view to this the transfer of the Mission property was reported to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, with a request that a missionary might be sent out.

The Rev. Walter Hovenden was afterwards one of the most eminent masters of this institution, and was deservedly beloved by the inmates. It was the privilege of the writer just to know him, and to love him for his work's sake. We were both at the Sand-Heads together for the recovery of our health in 1832. In the month of September, the last day, he died, and his body was committed to the deep in the sure and certain hope that when the sea should give up its dead (and the sea will give up its dead) he should live a bright and blessed star in the firmament of the Redeemer's glory. The following lines were written at the time, as a memorial of him :—

There is no grave prepared by mortal hand,
To make of thy cold corpse the burial-place ;
Nor mourning friends around thy bier could stand,
To yield thee weeping to the earth's embrace.

What reck's it ? though the ocean's giant tide
Rolls in deep waters o'er thy watery rest :
Lives not thy worth through years of labour tried,
Shrined in the core of memory's faithful breast ?

And hallowed there in meditation's hour,
Shall not thy genial virtue breathe again ?
Whilst the fair fruits of many an opening flower,
Prove that thy culture hath not been in vain.

Ah ! who of all that saw and felt the care,
 The tender care with which thy charge was nurs'd,
 Deem'd that destroying grief was slumbering there
 So soon from crush'd affection's fount to burst.

Hath it not spoken in the sorrowing tones
 Of honoured age ? Of manhood's lustier years,—
 Of youth which now no more thy guidance owns ?
 Hath it not glistened in the orphan's tears ?

Yet not for thee we mourn ;—the eternal Sun
 Of righteousness is beaming o'er thee now.
 The fight is o'er, the Christian's goal is won,
 The crown of gold is on the angel's brow.

Say would ye call the spirit back to clay,
 That we might cease to mourn its absence here ?
 To fill our aching void ? Away, away,
 The selfish wish ! Is not that spirit near ?

List to its hallow'd tones—/ I may not come
 To you, my friends—but ye may come to me.
 And *here* the heavy-laden find their home,
 And peace and joy through all eternity.

Glory to God ! in yonder azure sky,
 Another guiding star to man is given ;
 Praise to the victim Lamb ! no more we die,
 But rise a ransom'd fold to light and heaven.

The request above alluded to was duly acknowledged,
 and the desire complied with in the following letter :—

' TO THE REV. DAVID BROWN, MESSRS. GRANT AND
 CHAMBERS, CALCUTTA.

' GENTLEMEN,

' The letter under your joint signatures, and dated at
 Calcutta, March 7th, 1788, I duly received, and agree-
 ably to your wishes, communicated to the East India
 Mission Committee of the Society for Promoting Chris-
 tian Knowledge, and afterwards by their direction to
 the General Board. I have the pleasure to inform you
 that its contents were received with much satisfaction,
 and the part you have acted respecting the concerns of
 the Mission, and the mission church, hath greatly

endeared you to the society. * * * The church and premises connected with it, Mr. Kiernander long promised to make over to the society, which promise, it seems, he hath ultimately failed to fulfil, and that you have stepped forward to rescue them from secular uses, and secure them for the sole purposes of religion, is a matter that speaks creditably for you as Englishmen, Christians, and members of our national church. Your act therefore is highly approved by the society, and in the most cordial manner they fall in with your wishes of sending out a new missionary to carry on the sacred purposes they have all along had in view in Calcutta.

‘Anxious to accomplish this purpose, the committee looked out for a fit person, who was soon recommended to them for the purpose by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, in the person of the Rev. Thomas Clarke, a clergyman of his lordship’s diocese; * * * The society hereby recommend him to your most friendly attention, &c.

‘The proposal for establishing a mission on a more extensive scale, in Bengal and Bahar, which you were so good as to transmit to my hands, has been listened to by the Mission Committee and by the General Board with peculiar satisfaction. They approve of its plan, and admire the judgment and piety with which it has been drawn up, and only lament that it is not in their power to give full effect to your wishes. The hope, however, may be encouraged, that a time is shortly coming when efforts for introducing the knowledge of Christ throughout your parts of India, may generally take place; and whereinsoever the society can be aiding to forward such designs, they will not be found wanting.

‘I am, &c., &c.,

‘GEO. GASKIN, Sec.

‘*London, March 7th, 1789.*’

On Mr. Brown’s taking charge of the Mission Church he continued Mr. Frenzel, Mr. Kiernander’s assistant, as minister of the Portuguese congregation. He

officiated to a remnant of that flock for several years, but no account has been preserved as to the result of his labours.

The three chaplains at the Presidency and Garrison, Johnson, Owen, and Blanshard gave Mr. Brown in writing, their friendly testimony to the disinterested piety and zeal which induced him gratuitously to enter on a very laborious ministry, deemed by them of most essential importance to the community, and they, especially Mr. Owen, frequently rendered him assistance, but the weight of responsibility rested solely with himself.

On re-opening the church, the English congregation was inconsiderable in number. St. John's church was opened for divine service in that year, and there the more wealthy found suitable accommodation, whilst opposition, which cannot now be accounted for, seems to have been raised against Mr. Brown's labours in the Mission Church. Seven years after, speaking of the affairs of the mission, he says, 'I shall not carry your views back to the opposition which was made to this work at the beginning, nor to the sacrifices which it occasioned; suffice it to say, that we have passed through evil report and we have passed through good report, and now all men seem clearly to understand that we have no worldly end or interest to serve. The gospel has been preached freely, that is, without income, reward, or any other earthly consideration whatever, and in this respect we glory that it hath been preached as the apostle preached it to the Ephesians, &c., &c. * * * * The dying beds of some who have departed hence in the Lord have been of unspeakable consolation and encouragement to me, and hid repentance from mine eyes, for in death there is no deceit, and that ONE IMMORTAL SOUL should be made wise unto salvation, is worth a life of labour and pains on all that we can lose of a temporal nature.'

At first Mr. Brown officiated in the Mission Church only on Sunday mornings, and met once a week at Mr.

O'Beek's, (who then lived next door to the church in the house Mr. Kiernander had built for his school,) a few persons desirous of religious instruction, with whom he conversed and prayed. These increasing in number, a Sunday evening service was determined on, and also a weekly lecture. Mr. W. Chambers, Mr. Crommelin, Mrs. Hodges, and several others subscribing liberally towards the expense of lighting, servants, &c. The manifest pleasure with which Mr. Brown ministered to this small congregation, and the perseverance with which he pursued what he considered his duty towards the mission, was after a time followed with the best consequences. It has been often remarked that a minister, whatever his talents or acquirements may be, preaches more effectually by his life than his sermons, and a remarkable instance of the truth of this remark may be introduced here :—On one occasion when the bell ceased, the number of persons in the church was only six, but Mr. Brown went on as usual. One of the six, a person of high respectability, being the next day in a large company where religion was lightly spoken of, observed, that he was now *sure* that there was some *reality* in it, for he had been the night before at the Mission Church, and the weather threatened to be so stormy that only six persons were assembled, but that Mr. Brown had given them such an excellent discourse that he hoped to remember it to the end of his life, and that he was certain nothing but zeal for God and love to man could have induced him to go on in his duties on such a night. From that time that person became a constant attendant, &c., &c.

In 1789 the Rev. Mr. Clarke arrived in Calcutta on the part of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The governor of the Free School, which had just then been established and of which we shall say more hereafter, offered him the head-mastership of the school, which he accepted ; but a Mr. Clarke having been reported to government by the Court of Directors as appointed a chaplain on their establishment, this

gentleman conceiving that some of his friends had procured him the appointment, applied to government and was admitted to the service ; and on the mistake being discovered, he did not again return to the mission, nor does he appear to have been well suited for the work.

The institution of the free school is another noble instance of the growing attention of the settlement to the interests of religion. It is the first institution Calcutta can boast of as intended for the benefit of the *Christian public*. The platform was laid in the original charity-school for the maintenance and education of twenty boys, and during the period of Mr. Kiernander's active labour no further provision was felt to be needful ; but on the failure of his charity-school the wants of the Christian population became evident, and proposals were issued for the establishment of a new institution. These were so well received by the public that in a few weeks a fund of 26,000 rupees was raised, beside a monthly subscription of above 1,000 rupees.

In the following year the old charity-school became incorporated with the new one, and in 1795 the free-school was finally fixed in its present situation.

In 1791 the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge again addressed Mr. Brown by their secretary as follows :—

‘ TO THE REV. J. OWEN AND D. BROWN.

‘ As there is reason to believe that Mr. Clarke has quitted the service of the mission, I am instructed to communicate to the Rev. Mr. Brown, and to the Rev. Mr. Owen, the particulars of a minute made yesterday at a meeting of the Society's Mission Committee, the Lord Bishop of Salisbury being in the chair.

‘ *Bartlett's Buildings, London,*

‘ *Thursday, April 28th, 1791.*

‘ At a meeting of the East India Mission Committee :

‘ Agreed in opinion, That letters be written by the

secretary to the Rev. John Owen, and Rev. David Brown, requesting that they will have the goodness to render their utmost assistance in supplying the duties of the Calcutta Mission Church, in case of its being vacated by Mr. Clarke, until such time as the vacancy can be filled up ; and that the particular thanks of the Society be returned to the Rev. Mr. Brown for the great attention he has already shown to this good work.'

'GEO. GASKIN, D.D., Sec.'

In a letter to a friend, dated February, 1792, Mr. Brown writes :—

'From the time Mr. Clarke left Calcutta, the Mission has enjoyed the greatest quietness and even prosperity. There has been no abatement of attention in the congregation, nor have the contributions decreased. The prejudices raised are in a great measure laid aside, and we trust several are drawing towards us with a candid ear. The weekly lecture is well attended, and I feel encouraged to continue it. I have besides catechised at the Church on Fridays in the afternoon for some months back. Several poor people send their children, and seem glad to have them instructed. I have many opportunities of speaking to the people, and of attending to various useful calls, and have no reason to repent your advice which fixed me here ; yet when I reflect how much I have undertaken, and how deeply I am engaged, I am appalled—I inwardly long for the shade of obscurity. A thousand and a thousand times do my feelings anticipate the joy that the arrival of a missionary or two will give me, for I shall then certainly retire immediately, and never stand forward but when my call is as clear as the sun, that is, when necessity urges me.

'It will give you pleasure to hear that Mr. Owen continues to me the support of his countenance and aid in the mission, and is one of those who stands by it to the utmost of his power. He regularly preaches at the Hospital on Sunday afternoons, where, when I am free

from the Mission, I am to take my part with him. He has been of great use, but will, I fear, be thinking of Europe next year. This will be a serious loss to me, for I believe I owe the quietness I have all along enjoyed to his friendship, &c. He is a bold friend, and able to speak with a quashing authority.'

In a letter to the same friend, dated that year, we find some very interesting sketches of character intimately connected with the object of this work, 'Amidst discouragements we have real comforts, several have been attracted, and not a few apparently are changed, they walk at least as becometh the gospel of Christ. There are some of the higher classes who steal behind a pillar and frequently pay us a Nicodemus visit. Whoever comes out to this charge will find us in a prosperous way, and will also find very comfortable accommodations on the mission-premises, rooms are ready and also ready furnished, and nothing will be wanting on our part to strengthen the hands of those who may come; I really wonder so few are prompt to offer for this service! I remember well that even with my poverty of zeal a proposal of the kind when I was in college would have been irresistible. As it was, I left parents, whose first-born I was, and my mother loved me as her own soul, and from whom, for any worldly consideration, I could not have been persuaded to have parted. Mr. E.'s mother, it seems, prevented his coming, and how far he has done right to listen to her dissuasions I will not decide; but these things are in higher hands, perhaps he was not the man, or this impediment would not have been in his way. I hope all who move in this business will admit the necessity of *at least two missionaries together*, to carry on their work with comfort, as I have formerly written. The difficulty of getting fit men to proceed hither must always be great; but God is greater than all difficulties, and he can easily raise up the fittest instruments if he has pleasure in this work, and if not it cannot prosper.

The following extract will give an idea of the exist-

ing state of feeling among many of the higher classes at this period, and will be found instructive in a general point of view as descriptive of almost every-day characters as exhibited to the Christian minister under similar circumstances.

‘Great changes are taking place almost every day in the situations and offices of men here ; and death sudden and unexpected, surprises many, it is feared, in an unprepared state. The death of Mr. D—— when about to embark for Europe, will strike you as an awful event ! I saw him lately in the court, displaying wonderful abilities, and very strong passions, not of the benevolent kind. How vain are our agitations ! how soon must all our thoughts, except those which relate to a better world, perish ! W—— is also gone ; I saw him in his last days, and spoke seriously to him, which he seemed to take well, and told me he should be glad to hear me more fully on religious subjects, when he got better. I suggested the fitness of prayer under his present circumstances, and he readily admitted it, and I wished to express in prayer what I found he would not give me leave to do in conversation ; for, *with all his moral defects*, he was a pharisee. I prayed that he might see the evil of sin, and feel himself a sinner, and know how to value a Redeemer, and on similar points : he seemed touched a little, but immediately resumed his old strains, and observed, that he did not in general relish extempore devotion, unless a man could hit off an elegant prayer to the Deity, (his own words) then he had no objection. He repeated passages out of several collects, which he professed highly to approve : this gave me a good opportunity, as expressions occurred, denoting a sinful state, and the necessity of forgiveness, to speak to him on these subjects. He still persisted, that he was not an irreligious man, as I might take him to be ; that he every night said his prayers, and did his best, &c. &c. Such sights ought to benefit us, when we can do no good : hints for the pulpit arise out of such conversations, that may be of use to other descriptions of character : I therefore never think such visits lost.

‘I have lately been called to attend two men capitally convicted, and who were executed within a month of each other; the first was insensible to a degree I never saw any human being; the latter, I hope, obtained mercy. He had been religiously brought up till thirteen years of age, and all his early impressions returned and came upon him with great force and energy. He died calling on the name of the Lord Jesus with a humbled and softened heart. His last words to me were extremely tender and grateful; he begged to pray by himself, wept a silent flood in prayer, then dried his eyes, and finally said to me, that God had done great things for him, and he felt the truest happiness within; “for, Sir,” concluded he, “I trust my pardon is sealed.” This was all expressed with so little effort, and with such ease and genuine feeling of heart, that I cannot but believe that the hand of God supported him. There is another man convicted, likewise an European, and I shall again attend. But I suffer greatly from these services: during my late visits to the jail, my feelings and imagination were so disturbed, that I could not rest at night.

‘This malefactor’s pious mother had stored his memory with Dr. Watts’s Hymns in childhood, together with several of the Psalms of David, and other portions of Scripture, and when, by Mr. Brown’s instrumentality, he was roused by his death-like sleep, his early impressions revived, and the last hours of his life were employed in repeating such of them as were suitable to his melancholy circumstances.’

In 1792, the native hospital was founded. Its object is the relief of natives of all descriptions, who require surgical or medical aid, and it has proved a source of benefit to thousands, who otherwise were liable to perish or to become cripples for life. The project is said to have originated with Dr. Robert Wilson, who was appointed first superintendent, and the scheme was so much indebted to the exertions of the Rev. Mr. Owen, that he was first nominated a governor of the institution.

In the account of the Society for Promoting Christian

Knowledge for this year, it is observed, that 'the endeavours of the Society to procure a supply for their mission at Calcutta, have still proved unsuccessful. The business of the mission, however, hath not been altogether neglected. In a letter from W. Chambers, Esq., and the Rev. David Brown, they observe, that the interest the Society are pleased to take in the affairs of the Calcutta mission, notwithstanding the discouraging incidents which have attended it, cannot but make a sensible impression on their minds, and that they are thereby animated and encouraged to give it such support as they are able, without any abatement either in their present exertions, or their hopes of future success. Mr. Brown, aided by Mr. Owen, and also by the occasional assistance of Mr. Blanshard, the two chaplains of that Presidency, had been enabled, and they trusted would still be able, to keep the mission-church open, and they hoped that Divine providence would continue to prosper the Society's endeavours for the diffusion of religious knowledge in Bengal. They also observe, that at the expense of a few hundred rupees, out of a considerable sum, generously contributed by Mr. Charles Grant and Mr. Udney, toward the accomplishment of a plan of building that had been suggested, they had made comfortable accommodations for two missionaries, should so many be sent out, who, they hope, in that case, would also find a well-disposed congregation, and the resources of the mission equal at least to its present exigencies. Messrs. Brown and Owen give similar assurances of aid. Mr. Owen observes, that it was with justice the Society returned their thanks to Mr. Brown, who had exerted himself in behalf of the mission with equal good sense and zeal.

The year 1793 may be justly considered as the commencement of a new era in the religious history of India. A long period had elapsed since the mission at Tranquebar had been taken under the patronage of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, and no other attempt of the kind had been entered upon by any class

of Christians in England. The recommendations of Sir William Jones to translate and circulate among the Hindus, portions of our sacred scriptures, and the more direct efforts of Mr. Brown and the friends who joined with him in submitting to some of the leading men in the Established Church, the proposal for a mission on an extended scale in Bengal and Bahar, whatever effect they might produce on *individual* minds, had excited no *general* interest. The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge answered respecting the 'proposal,' that they approved its plan, admired the judgment and piety with which it was drawn up, but lamented it was not in their power to give full effect to it. The public mind in England, however, had been training, by various means, to works of Christian love, and the effect of it as far as it concerns missions, appeared first among the Dissenters. From small beginnings the Baptist Missionary Society had been established in 1792. To Mr. (afterwards Dr.) Carey, belongs the honour of having given a body to the spirit of missions, and to Mr. Thomas perhaps Bengal is indebted for having led the Baptist Missionary Society to fix on India as the future scene of their labours. That gentleman, on his return to England, advertised for subscriptions for carrying on the work, which he represented as greatly favoured by several persons of influence in Calcutta, of translating the Scriptures into Bengalee. The Baptist Society forthwith invited him to return under their patronage. This invitation he accepted, and the progress by which his mind was led to this determination is thus related in the statement he made to the Society:—'I sailed the second time to Bengal in 1786, with the same captain and officers, and in the same ship as before. That very season the Rev. D. Brown, who now preaches in Calcutta, went over and took charge of the *Orphan School*, where all the children of European soldiers are educated and provided for. On my arrival there I found a Mr. Udney, and a Mr. Chambers, and two or three more who were connected with Mr. Grant's family,

all serious people, and we used to go together to hear Mr. Brown on the Lord's-day, who preached to the children under his charge ; and after a little while, we had a prayer-meeting, and sometimes a word of exhortation was given. Mr. Grant removed from Maldah to Calcutta ; on his coming to us we were increased and strengthened, and I preached at his house every Lord's-day evening. One day as Mr. Udney and I were walking out, he gave me to understand that Mr. Grant wished me to stay in the country, to learn the language, and preach the Gospel to the Hindoos ; but I was averse to the climate, dreaded a longer separation from my family, and had no particular bent of mind to the work. Having also the charge of a ship's company as their surgeon, without any probability of the Captain giving me leave to stay, or of another surgeon being found to supply my place, I could not accede to the proposal, yet it would often return to my mind, and after a few weeks I became greatly concerned at heart for the condition of the perishing multitudes of Pagans in utter darkness, and was inflamed with fervent desires to go and declare the glory of Christ among them. Waters enough have risen since to damp, but will never extinguish what was lighted up at that time. After much prayer and many tears, I gave myself up to this work, and the Lord removed difficulties out of the way, confirmed the mission, and comforted me by adding two souls (both European) to my first labours, who continue my hope and joy, and, I trust, will be my crown at the day of Christ's appearing.'

In 1793, Mr. Thomas embarked the third time for India, with his family, accompanied by Dr. Carey and his family. Circumstances not favouring their settlement in or near Calcutta, at first they were led to accept secular employment in the neighbourhood of Maldah, where they could at the same time pursue the objects of their mission. Nothing is recorded in their early journal that belongs to this sketch, except a remark of Dr. Carey's, that hundreds of the Portuguese

Christians were reported to be desirous of religious instruction ; which remark affords an individual evidence as to the effect produced by the missionaries of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, in behalf of that class of the population of Calcutta.

During this year (1798) the increased attendance at the Mission Church, rendered the enlargement of the building necessary. When it first devolved to Mr. Brown's care, as the '*Beththipha*' of the aged Zacharias Kierlander, it was in a very different style to the elegant structure now presented to the eye, as one of the ornaments of the '*city of palaces*.'

From its original appearance it was designated by the natives *Lal Girja*, (*lal*, red ; and *girja*, church ;) by which appellation it is still best known, though now presenting the appearance of a massy stone edifice. Those who remember the old building describe its internal fittings-up and furniture, as consisting of a brick pulpit built against the wall, its aisle rough uncovered tiling, a few rude benches and pews of unpainted plank, formed the general seats, with a small number of chairs without pews for the gentry, and it did not accommodate at that time more than two hundred persons ; yet was it strongly built of good masonry, and very lofty, so as to be an object of attraction.

Encouraged and assisted by the fine taste and scientific abilities of his friend Mr. W. Chambers, Mr. Brown was not long in making a beginning, to enlarge and improve the building. The inner east wall which then divided the chancel was removed, and some beautiful highly finished Corinthian pillars were substituted, to support the roof, or break the ill-proportioned length. The increasing congregation soon required the space these pillars occupied. They were first decreased in number, and then reluctantly removed altogether, and other means of preserving the proportion as well as enlarging the space were resorted to, by extensive bows thrown out in the centre, and galleries erected at the extremities. It also was gradually fitted up in a man-

ner suitable to the climate, abundantly lighted, supplied with an excellent organ and handsome pulpit and desks, to correspond with the general neatness of the whole.

On the 29th of December 1793, the improvements being finished, Mr. Kiernander was invited to open the new chancel, when he administered the sacrament, and expressed himself extremely happy at seeing the church so much improved, and greatly increased in attendance. Mr. Kiernander's attendance on this occasion was communicated to the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. In the report of the Society, containing an account of these proceedings, considerable regret is expressed, that the Society still is under the necessity of mentioning, that no opportunity has occurred of sending to Calcutta another missionary, notwithstanding the pains that have been taken to find out a person for that station.' It is added, 'The providence of God it is hoped will yet raise up labourers for his vineyard.'

Mr. Chambers did not live to see the improvements of the church finished ; his death was deplored by the settlement as a public loss. In the Report of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, he is said to have been 'the great friend and ornament of the mission ; to whose zeal, prudence, and upright character in the settlement, it owed its best support.'

We may here add, though it has been in some degree anticipated, the character of this eminent man and Christian, as given in Lord Teignmouth's *Life of Sir William Jones* :—

'The loss of Mr. Chambers must be particularly lamented by all who feel an interest in communicating a knowledge of the doctrines of salvation to the natives of India. In an early period of life, he saw and felt the truth and importance of the Christian religion ; and while his own conduct exhibited the strength of his conviction, he thought it a duty to employ his talents and acquirements in disseminating amongst the untaught natives a knowledge of that faith, which he re-

garded of supreme and universal importance. In this view he determined to undertake a translation of the New Testament into Persian, and devoted all his leisure to the performance of this task, with the most zealous solicitude to make it accurate, but he had not completed half the Gospel of St. Matthew, when it pleased Providence to call him out of this life.' This brief notice of so eminent a man and Christian philanthropist, seemed due to the conspicuous part he acted in every thing relating to the good of India.

To return to Mr. Brown. His health sunk under his various and accumulated exertions : at length he consented to go out to sea, as the only remaining means from which his restoration could be expected. But never more was this devoted servant of Christ to resume his work of faith and labour which proceeded of love. The Indiaman on which he embarked struck on a sand, and the disadvantageous circumstances under which he was afterwards placed, greatly increased his weakness. It pleased God however that he should be brought back to the bosom of his family, and that when surrounded by the objects of his tenderest love, his spirit should be called home to partake in the joys of the blessed. His last morning on earth was particularly calm, collected, and resigned, and his last breath spoke thankfulness for the merciful consolations he enjoyed, the great kindness that had been shown him, and his confidence in the gracious promises of God. While in the act of thus expressing his gratitude, he closed his eyes, raised his feeble hands, and still moved his lips in inward worship, but his voice was heard no more ! He fell asleep in Jesus ! It is worthy of remark, that in giving direction respecting any inscription by which the remembrance of him might be perpetuated to posterity, he desired it to be recorded, not that he had filled high and important stations in the Church of our East India settlement,—not that he had been distinguished by the confidence, respect, and friendship of each successive administration of

the supreme government,—not that he had been placed at the head, and assisted to form a splendid and most important establishment as Provost of the College of Fort William,—but that in the Mission Church at Calcutta for twenty-five years, he preached the Gospel to the poor. A slab to this effect has been inscribed by the congregation, and placed within the walls of the Old Mission Church.

After the death of Mr. Brown, a memorandum was found among his papers, bearing date this year, respecting one of the earliest testimonies to his ministry after his labours became wholly confined to Calcutta. About three years ago Mr. Brown's sister arrived in India, and having a religious sense of the goodness of providence in preserving her through a dangerous voyage, expressed a wish to attend church where she might offer up her grateful thanks for mercies received. Mr. R. who had not been in a church for many years, escorted his sister on this occasion. They attended the evening service at the mission-church; both were impressed with the sermon which they heard, and he said immediately after, 'Sister, I shall never forget this sermon: I shall come again to this church.'

Ever after he was constant in his attendance, and grew daily in knowledge and in grace. He was faithful to his convictions, and acted up to the light which he received. At length his mind became fully settled in belief of the truths of the Gospel. He then made an open profession of his faith in a crucified Saviour, and met the scorn and derision of his worldly connections with the courage of a good soldier of Christ. He was not forward to declare his sentiments, or to obtrude religious discussion on others, but he never hesitated to explain his views when called upon to do so, for he was "ready to give an answer to every man that asked him a reason of the hope that was in him, with meekness."

His religion proved itself to be a reality, by the effects produced on his life and temper. He lived once without God and religion; he was naturally of a hasty

temper, and subject to violent gusts of passion ; in these respects, he became visibly a "new creature." Few men had more self-command than he acquired. His family are witnesses to his concern for their salvation and his own ; his retirement witnessed how he poured out his heart to God in prayer, and obtained answers of peace at the throne of grace. His acquaintance and dependants witnessed how much his temper was improved, softened, and subdued by religion. His Christian profession was uniform and consistent ; and his death proved to all around him the felicity of those who have hope in God. How calm and resigned was he to the stroke of death ! How tenderly affectionate to his family ! How confident in the goodness of God his Saviour, and that He, into whose hands he had committed his soul, would provide for his widow and children ! This, no doubt, is Christianity—true religion—and the very effect which the gospel ought to produce on all who hear it. Two days before his death, his sister wrote me as follows :—' My brother has just called me to him and inquired for Mr. Brown ; he said that you were the dear friend who had helped him to approach a merciful God who would never forsake him, and that with you he wished to pour forth his heart to Him in thanksgiving and praise.'

The year 1794 was marked by the death of Sir William Jones. How much the taste he cultivated and imparted to others for literary pursuits, tended to improve the manners of Calcutta society, cannot easily be decided. But love of science alone would not have produced the solidity and refinement of character exhibited by this distinguished man. The author of his life justly observes :—' If we sometimes suffer the humiliation of seeing great talents and extensive erudition prostituted to infidelity, and employed in propagating misery, by endeavouring to subvert the basis of our temporal and eternal welfare, we cannot but feel a more than common gratification at the salutary union of true genius and piety. Learning that wantons in irreligion may,

RATHER

'Seven hours to law, to soothing slumber seven,
Ten to the world allot, and ALL to heaven.'

The remarks which follow approve themselves to the reflecting mind, and are earnestly recommended to the consideration of the youthful reader.

'In matters of eternal concern, the authority of the highest *human* opinion has no claim to be admitted as a ground of belief, but it may with the strictest propriety be opposed to that of men of inferior learning and penetration; and whilst the pious derive satisfaction from the perusal of sentiments according with their own, those who doubt or disbelieve should be induced to weigh with candour and impartiality, arguments which have produced conviction in the minds of the best, the wisest, and most learned of mankind.

Among such as have professed a steady belief in the doctrines of Christianity, where shall greater names be found than those of Bacon and Newton? Of the former, and of Locke, it may be observed, that they were both innovators in science; disdaining to follow the sages of antiquity through the beaten paths of error. They broke through prejudices which had long obstructed the progress of sound knowledge, and laid the foundation of science on solid ground, whilst the genius of Newton carried him *extra flammantia maria mundi*.


These men, to their great praise, and we may hope to their eternal happiness, devoted much of their time to the study of the scriptures. If the evidence of revelation had been weak, who were better qualified to expose its unsoundness? if our national faith were a mere fable, a political superstition, why were minds which boldly destroyed prejudices in science blind to those in religion. They read, examined, weighed, and believed, and the same vigorous intellects that dispersed the mists which concealed the temple of human knowledge, was itself illuminated with the radiant truths of Divine revelation.

Such authorities,—and let me now add to them the name of Sir William Jones,—are deservedly entitled to great weight : let those who superciliously reject them, compare their intellectual powers, their scientific attainments, and vigour of application with those of the men whom I have named ; the comparison may perhaps lead them to suspect that their incredulity (to adopt the idea of a profound scholar) may be the result of a little smattering in learning, and great self-conceit, and that by harder study, and a humbled mind, they may regain the religion which they have lost. ‘ I shall not apologize,’ continues his biographer, ‘ for the extracts which I have introduced from the works of Sir William Jones, nor for the reflections to which they have naturally led. The former display that part of his character which alone is now important to his happiness ; and I am authorized to add not only from what appears in his printed works and private memoranda, in more than one of which, containing a delineation of his daily occupations, I find a portion of time allotted to the perusal of the scriptures, but from principle and satisfactory testimony, that the writings of our best divines engaged a large share of his attention, and that private devotion was not neglected by him. The following lines which afford a proof both of his taste and piety, were written by him after a perusal of the eighth sermon of Barrow, in his retirement at *Krishan-Nagar*, in 1786 ; and with these I shall conclude my observations on his religious opinions.

‘ As meadows parched, brown groves, and withering flowers,
Imbibe the sparkling dew and genial showers :
As chill dark air inhales the morning beam,
As thirsty harts enjoy the gelid stream ;
Thus to man’s grateful soul from heaven descends,
The mercies of his Father, Lord, and Friend.

In “ *Memorial Sketches* ” we find an account of the last hours of this great man, which possess a melancholy interest both as indicating the insufficiency of earthly superiority to comfort in the trying hour, and

also the consolation attending his religious principles, which those who cultivate only his literary acquisitions will in vain seek in them : ' Sir William was at his old garden-house, and all the entreaties of his friends could not prevail on him to come into town or to suffer any besides his native servants to attend him. A day or two previous to his death, this resistance abated, and he had consented that a medical attendant should be in the house with him ; this was however only finally agreed to the evening before he expired ; when Dr. Hare is very sure he had a serious impression and apprehension of his approaching end, and he then said, that he had suffered so much the last ten days, that he would rather be told that he should die next morning, than to be assured of life by enduring the same a fortnight longer. He lamented frequently his not having gone to England, and said he had no object on earth to keep him here, that he had more money than he could use, and that his studies could be as well carried on in England as in India. In short he had brought his plans nearly to a close. His moulvis and pundits had been dismissed some months, and he wanted no more that they could furnish. I have reason to believe that he had little faith in any help that the physician could bring him, and he even intimated that the will of God must be done, although he submitted to take whatever was prescribed. He had no idea that his liver was affected, but thought that his stomach was disordered. However, he assuredly felt himself drawing to his end, and was very indifferent to what was done. The abscess, the doctor supposes, broke towards morning, and produced instant death. His servants say he was restless, and was taken with vomiting, and nature made other efforts. He got up, ordered some tea, and dressed himself. Having taken a little tea he ordered the servants to withdraw. I really believe he then resigned himself to God, and committed his soul into the hands of that Redeemer he confessed before men. I am led to hope this from some anecdotes which I heard of his religious



sentiments several months before he died, and which gave me much satisfaction. He was very sincere in his opinions, and avowed them ; but, he was cautious not to divulge how much his heart was affected. He knew the world, and his habits led him to conceal what he was apprehensive would not be understood, but placed to the account of religious ostentation ; he thought every one must stand or fall to his own master, and having made up his own mind, he left others to themselves ; and let me not say that he erred in so doing. He is gone ! and no one in this country has followed him with more reflections and sighs than I have done. He died on Sunday morning the 27th of April, and was interred the following morning. I went very early and found only Enius by his body, who shed many tears. I took a candle and dwelt for some minutes on every feature. His face was infinitely beautiful in death ; his nose had an exquisite delicacy, a fineness and variety I cannot describe, though the idea is fixed clear and deep in my own mind ; his mouth was speaking ; his forehead impressive of awe, and strongly characteristic of the laborious and unremitting attention he devoted to the acquisition of knowledge. My feelings perhaps carried me away, but since the death of that good, enlightened and dear friend, Mr. William Chambers, I have not felt anything like the death of Sir William Jones.'

About this period a proposal was made to the late Mr. Thomason by Mr. Grant, to fill the mission church at Calcutta. His mind was for some time absorbed in the thought of being thus employed in his divine master's service, and every thing that could be done was done to enable him to accept the proposal, but two things concurred to determine his relinquishment of it. The appointment was then offered to Mr. Buchanan, of Queen's College, and by him accepted.

Upon this decision it was remarked by Mr. Thomason's most intimate friend and colleague,—'Here we cannot but notice the wisdom and goodness of divine

Grant, all I wish to ascertain is the will of God. I hope that the result of your deliberations will prove to be his will; were I required to say something I should observe that I feel myself very ill-qualified for the arduous situation in question. My intimate friends know that my plan of college study was to attend more immediately to academical learning the two first years, and to preparation for the ministry in the third and last, upon which I am now entering. I think that our regard for the glory of God requires us to endeavour to find a person of acknowledged ability in things both human and divine, who has already approved himself such an one as might successfully resist gainsayers and prosecute his mission with energy. A beginner, particularly if he be of slender capacity and attainments, will naturally shrink from such a situation, fearing lest he should tarnish the honour of his embassy by an unskilful or ungraceful negotiation.

‘On the contrary, if the Lord does with me as with Jeremiah, and bids a child go and teach a great nation, it would be vain to plead my incapacity, since if he sends me he will certainly touch my mouth. Only I would observe that in the present state of Christianity it would appear that as strict attention ought to be paid to human means in our endeavours to promote the success of the gospel as if it were merely a human dispensation.

‘I trust that every word of the above is dictated by a regard for God’s honour and not my own.

‘That his honour may be greatly promoted by the result of your deliberations is the prayer of C. B.’

The judgment as well as the piety of Mr. Buchanan’s reply to this proposal deserves to be noticed, and affords a satisfactory indication of his qualifications for the important station to which it refers. The following sentiments expressed in a subsequent letter are equally pleasing.

‘With respect to my going to India, I am still in a strait between two. Some considerations incline me to

stay, others persuade me to go, as being far better. Being unable to judge for myself I submit it to the divine direction with perfect resignation. So gracious is he who careth for me, in this respect, that your determination whether for or against my going will be alike agreeable to me, I am equally ready to preach the gospel in the next village, or at the end of the earth.'

Such was the elevated spirit of piety which actuated Mr. Buchanan early in this year; as it advanced, he wrote as follows to Mr. Newton:—

'We have had Mrs. Udney and Mr. Cecil's family at Cambridge for a few days. It gives me great pleasure to see piety gladden with its presence our learned walls. Pride and superstition have doubtless built most of our colleges; but I am inclined to think that genuine piety built some of them. A solitary walk in such places has a tendency to incite elevated thoughts of God and of his goodness to man through successive ages.

'My purpose in troubling you with this letter was to say that I bear that affection for you a child beareth to his father, a desire to conceal his faults (if he has any) and to magnify his virtues, that I hope to be preserved from the snares and cares of this world, and thereby enabled to adorn that gospel which you first wished me to profess.'

Dr. Buchanan was ordained at Fulham by the late Bishop Porteus, on Sunday, the 20th September, 1795. Immediately after his admittance into holy orders he entered upon his engagement as curate to Mr. Newton. Early, however, in the year 1796, the friends, by whose Christian kindness and liberality he had been introduced into the church, conceiving that his talents might be more advantageously employed abroad, recurred to the plan which had for some time been more or less in their view, and resolved to endeavour to obtain for him the appointment of a chaplain in the service of the East India Company. Application was accordingly made to a distinguished director, the late Charles Grant, Esq., accompanied by such testimonials as amply certified the

qualifications of Mr. Buchanan for the office to which he had been recommended.


In consequence of the various and uncommon character of the testimonials both from the university and the excellent bishop, by whom he had been ordained, as well as others of a private nature, Mr. Buchanan was appointed one of the chaplains to the East India Company on Wednesday, March 30th, 1796. When introduced to the Court of Directors, &c., he was addressed by the late Sir Stephen Lushington on the importance of his office, and on the duties imposed on ministers of religion in India. Mr. Buchanan thus mentions the address of the honourable chairman many years after it had been delivered.

‘The venerable baronet observed that French principles were sapping the foundations of Christianity and of social order ; and he earnestly inculcated on me the duty of defending and promoting the principles of the Christian religion by every proper means. I was much affected by the solemnity of the occasion, and by the energy and feeling with which the address was delivered, and the subject of the charge itself made a great impression on my mind, particularly when meditating on it afterwards during my voyage.’

On the 3rd of July he preached for Mr. Newton at St. Mary Woolnoth, and terminated by a pious and affectionate farewell, his short connection with the congregation of his dear and venerable friend.

The extract in which reference is made to Sir S. Lushington’s speech will shew to the reader what was the then state of opinion in Calcutta among the company’s servants ; and as licentious principles are always followed by licentious practices, we may infer that even external morality, not to say Christian practice, was at a very low ebb.

Mr. Buchanan landed at Calcutta on the 10th of March, two days before the completion of the 31st year of his age. On his arrival he was hospitably received by the Rev. Mr. Brown, and resided for a short time in



his family. He then took a house in Dhurum Tollah, where however, he continued but two months, being at the end of that time appointed chaplain at Barrackpore, a military station about sixteen miles above Calcutta. This was to him a great disappointment, as it afforded few opportunities for the exercise of his ministry, and fewer for that which he had most at heart. There was no place for public worship, and divine service was never required by the military staff to which he was attached.

After a short residence he thus describes the station of Barrackpore: 'The station where I now am, has been called the Montpelier of India. Here I enjoy every thing that can minister to comfort or elegance, except society. We have society, too, but it is only polite society. There are not many here, I fear, whose hearts are awakened to the love of virtue and truth. Nevertheless, I possess two companions of inestimable value, I mean those two books which are written by the finger of God: the book of God's *word*, and the book of God's *works*. These are treasures which are inexhaustible, and which afford me in my retirement, pleasure, company, and comfort.'

The following picturesque description will serve to place the reader down on the spot above alluded to:

'I am situated on the banks of the Ganges. The country is champaign, but covered with trees: the most numerous are mangoe, cocoa-nut, banyan (the Indian fig) and plantain-trees. The river is covered with boats passing and repassing. There are two elephants amusing themselves at the water-side. One of them is eating plantain leaves, which are his ordinary food. He takes hold of the leaves with his trunk, and puts them into his mouth. The other is washing himself: he fills his trunk with water, and then throws it round him, so that he is covered with the spray. A little boy is now going to mount one of them in order to lead them home. As he is not very heavy he sits upon the point of the trunk, and thus the elephant lifts him on his back. An elephant has no bridle. How then is he directed? The

boy has a rod of iron, sharp at one end, and with this he pricks his head when he goes wrong.

‘When the elephant wishes to set down the ladies, who frequently ride upon him, he falls upon his knees, and when they have dismounted, he rises. He is altogether a wonderful animal.

‘On the other side of the river I see a flock of vultures, they are hovering over a dead body which is floating down the stream. Many of the Hindoos cast their dead bodies into the Ganges, that they may be conveyed to paradise! About a mile up the river a funeral pile is just lighted. It is now near evening when this rite is usually performed. The relatives accompany the corpse to the water-side, where a pile of dry wood is raised about the body, and the *nearest relative* applies the torch. The jackalls, allured by the smell, will presently come down from the woods and prowl about. They live on carrion of all kinds, and are generally inoffensive.

‘The air is frequently thronged with kites, hawks, and crows, who are looking for snakes and other noxious creatures, and they are so successful in their search that we are seldom annoyed by these animals. So attentive is providence to the comfort of man!

‘A woman burnt herself with her dead husband about three days ago, a few miles up the river. This happens very frequently.

‘My servants bring me a glass of wine and water. Two are concerned in the operation, one of them will not touch the glass though he will pour the wine into it! So strange are the superstitions of this people. Another will wipe my shoes, but he will not wash my feet. A third will bathe me, but he will not fan me. You see, Miss E——, what strange things we travellers behold!’

‘Have I told you all? or shall I mention a north-wester. This is a violent tornado from the north-west, which makes a regular and magnificent progress through the heaven: violent wind, thunder and lightning, roll

on in a kind of collected body. This short-lived tempest is very awful, and very grand. It is always a welcome visitor, for it cools the heated air, and refreshes all nature around.

‘I am now so familiarized to violent thunder, that I scarcely ever notice it, except when I go out purposely to contemplate the grandeur of a north-wester.’

Such are the scenes presented to the Christian in his every-day walks, and even while sitting in his retirement. Truly “the dark parts of the earth are the habitations of cruelty.” And oh, how appalling to the disciple of Jesus, and how awakening in reference to the obligations which we, as Christians, in possession of the light and truth of God, are under to these dark parts of the earth.

When Mr. Buchanan arrived at Calcutta, Mr. Brown was one of the two chaplains of the Presidency. He held also the chaplaincy of the garrison. Some of Mr. Buchanan’s friends in England conceived that the latter appointment might have been transferred to him, or that he might have officiated at the Mission church. As to the garrison, motives of delicacy and kindness towards Mr. Brown, with whom he lived from the first on the most friendly and affectionate terms, prevented him from soliciting such an arrangement, and the Mission church was then occupied by the Rev. Mr. Ringaltaube, a clergyman of the Lutheran church, who had been sent to India under the patronage of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. No sooner however, had Mr. Ringaltaube abandoned this post, as he shortly afterwards did, than Mr. Buchanan participated with Mr. Brown in the gratuitous labour of the Mission church. He occasionally also performed divine service in his house at Barrackpore, probably as often as he could obtain an audience. The following letter to Mr. Brown, shows not only the nature of their intercourse and friendship, but also the tendency of a want or success in the ministry to depression of spirits, connected

These lines are here introduced, in the hope, that they may be of use to some who may be brought into similar circumstances, in enabling them to rise above them, and this brief memorial of Mr. Buchanan's first appointment in India, will not be given in vain, if it serve to check in any who may be similarly situated, either abroad or at home, the too natural disposition to despondency and haste, and to lead them in the conscientious improvement of present opportunities, to wait patiently for further openings, and in the meantime to "hope in God;" and if it tend to abate in those who may be observing them any impatience of their backwardness in fulfilling even just expectations, and to teach them that charity which, concerning the substantially pious and sincere, "hopeth all things."

The following letter, written to Mr. Grant about this period, will throw further light on the state of things in reference to religion.

'Lord Mornington has been here near six weeks. As yet he maintains much dignity in his government. He goes regularly to Church, and professes a regard for religion. He has been at Barrackpore for ten days past. He was surprised when I told him that we never had Divine service there, or at any other station. He was still more surprised when he heard there were horse-races here on *Sunday* morning.'

A character is here introduced, of whom much of interest is to be told:—

'The apostolic Obeck is well, and affectionately remembers all your family. He succeeds to Swartz in the title to our reverence and esteem.'

Mr. Obeck was a native of Germany. He was for many years employed as steward in Mr. Grant's family during his residence in India. The piety and fidelity of this good man were rewarded by the liberal support and friendly regard of his patron to the day of his death.

Mr. Buchanan adds:—'Remember me to Mrs. B; she alone opposed my coming to India. Tell her not to triumph. She has not seen to the end.'

In a letter to Mr. Newton, written about three months after this dispatch, he mentions another circumstance, which shows strongly the then state of feeling on the subject of religion.

Before Sir John Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth, left India, Mr. Brown procured an order of Council, that the military in the garrison should attend at the Presidency Church every Sunday morning at six o'clock, there being no chapel or service in the garrison itself. Strong opposition was made to this order, on the ground that the troops would suffer in their health by marching in the sun. They attended a few Sundays, but at last the clamour became so violent, that the order was revoked, and the triumph over religion considered complete. What an awful state of a professing Christian people! Christians triumphing over Christianity—treading it under foot—doubtless because it interrupted them, and made them uneasy in the indulgence of the evil passions of a fallen nature.

It was not long after this, that in another letter addressed to Mr. Grant, (1799) Mr. Buchanan acknowledged the good resulting from an order of the Honourable Company against Sunday horse-racing, and the erection of chapels at some of the military stations.

'Your moral regulations of May last are come, and not before they were wanted. They have been just published and are *well received*. I ought not to say published. Lord Mornington's delicacy induced him to communicate them by circular letter. They ought to have been proclaimed from the house-top.'

About this period, adverting to the Baptist Missionaries at Serampore, Mr. Buchanan ventures an opinion on the then Missionary prospects in India. Of Mr. afterwards Dr. Carey, he remarks, that he was then chiefly employed in laying the foundations of future usefulness. He is translating the bible into the Bengalee tongue. 'This, like Wickliff's first translation, may prove the father of many versions. But,' continues Mr. Buchanan, 'a rapid spread of the Gospel is

not to be expected in India ; zeal and labour, and the lapse of years, will no doubt produce the usual fruit. In the revolution of this century, the 'dawn' of the Gospel has appeared in India. After many centuries have revolved, there may be a general light. This, it must be admitted, was a gloomy view of the subject, but all was gloom around him. Speaking again of the faithful Obeck, he says, 'Mr. Obeck in Calcutta is like Lot in Sodom. I asked him one day if he could produce ten righteous to save the city. He replied, 'I am not sure I could produce ten, but I think I might five.' What a state of things, at the close of a century of rule in India !'

In a letter to a young friend at College, he writes, 'Infidelity raged here with great violence formerly, but it is rather on the defensive now. It was fashionable for a time to allege, that oriental research was unfavourable to the truth of Christianity ; but the contrary is found to be the case. As far as my own inquiries have gone I can truly say,—I have seen the star, and worshipped in the East. In the study of eastern history and learning, there is endless proof of the truth of both the Old and New Testament.'

It is not the object of the present sketch to notice the manners of society ; and yet an occasional touch to show their bearing on the Christian character and *morals* may not be wholly irrelevant. The following occurs in this letter. 'I suppose you have heard of the grandeur of English life in India. To live in the first circle in India is to live at court. There is nearly the same dignity of etiquette, elegance of equipage, and variety of entertainment. Every lady is handed to table according to her rank ; and no grace is said !'

Of the natives he says—'Their general character is imbecility of body and mind. Their moral powers are, and have been for ages, in a profound stupor ; and there is seldom an instance of their being awakened. A partial attempt or rather *experiment* is now being made by some Christian teachers. The Hindoo mind seems at present

bound by a *satanic* spell ; and it will require the co-operation of a more than human power to break it. But Divine co-operation implies human endeavour. Many ages must then elapse before the conversion of India is accomplished.

‘With respect to moral action the Hindoos pay as little attention to their own religion, as a rule of life, as the *English do to their’s*. Your profession of the Christian religion is a proverbial jest throughout the world. . . . The Hindoo is born blind, but you put out your own eyes. Loose principles and sensual indulgence first dim them, and then the ‘drop serene’ of the new philosophy quenches the orb !

‘A residence in this country adds much to the *dignity* of the European. Here the labour of a multitude is demanded for the comfort of one : and it is not so much demanded as voluntarily given. In no other country can we so well see the homage matter pays to mind. Generally however, it is but the homage which black pays to white. This is the grand argument for keeping the Hindoos in a state of mental depression.

‘You know the character of the Hindoo superstition. It is lascivious and bloody. I know no epithet that embraces so much of it as either of these two. Of the first I shall say nothing, their caprine orgies in the interior of their temples, and the emblems engraved on the exterior, &c.

‘Their scenes of blood are not less revolting to the human mind. Human sacrifice is not quite abolished. The burning of women alive is common. This power of self-sacrifice arises from insensibility of mind, and from that alone ; just as a child may be persuaded to plunge into danger, which infant reason cannot see. So the Hindoo of childish capacity, is persuaded to destroy his existence ; he views neither death or life in their true light.’ Inference : all comparison therefore between the *fortitude* of the Christian martyr, and the *madness* of the Hindoo, is nugatory and absurd.*

* One Sabbath morning a peculiar duty called me into the heart of the native town, early in the forenoon. Many poor heathen were

Mr. Buchanan was appointed to a vacant chaplaincy at the Presidency, by Lord Mornington, in Feb. 1800, and an occasion soon occurred to call forth the energies

passing to and fro, one to his farm, another to his merchandise; knowing neither the privilege of the Christian Sabbath, nor Him who is its Lord. As I returned on my way to church, I had to pass a large temple, dedicated to Kali, which I had often noticed with much interest, from its rural situation and striking appearance. A flight of steps led up to the room in which the hideous idol was placed, represented as holding in one hand a human head by the hair, and trampling a man under her feet. At the foot of the steps a crowd of people was congregated, and some ceremony of more than usual import appeared to be going on:—I endeavoured to discover what it was which attracted so much attention: a moment's glance informed me,—it was *the SACRIFICE OF A SOUL!*

In front of the temple, stood a beautiful native child, a boy of about six years of age, richly attired: a hoary brahmin stood on each side of him, and in their turn, poured into his ear the various munttras he was to repeat, the prayers he was to utter, and the manner in which he was to approach his idol god: within the temple stood the officiating brahmins, also occupied in worship. It was evident from the splendid dress of the child, and his numerous attendants, that he was the son of parents rich in this world's goods, but poor, alas *how* poor, in heavenly treasure. They thought this public display of devotion was the best they could do for their boy; but the god of this world had blinded their eyes, and they knew not when they sent their child to offer to Kali, that the precious offering he made, was to be his immortal soul.

But my story ends not here: this temple is commended to my remembrance by a more pleasing circumstance. A fine brahmin boy, about eight years old, who for a year previous had been under instruction in a school under a Christian Society in this city, paid me a visit at my house; and in course of conversation, alluding to this same spot, he said, 'Sir, as I was coming to your house, while we were passing Kali's temple, my brother and the sircar, who were with me, made salaam to the 'Thakoor,' (idol) but *I did not do so*. Sir! it is very bad—it has hands, but it cannot lift up anything—it has eyes, but it cannot see—it is only a piece of mud! The *true* God is *up*; Sir!'

There is great hope and great encouragement to the persevering labourer, and the missionary and the teacher may hold on their way, expecting a blessing. Place the ark of God near Dagon, and Dagon *must* fall. How important it is to begin *early* in sowing good seed in the heart! This will prove an antidote to all the follies of idolatry, and will enable even a little child to strip it of its mask, and to see it as it is.—“In the *morning* sow thy seed”—

‘Thou canst not toil in vain;
Cold, heat, and moist, and dry,
Shall foster and mature the grain
For garners in the sky.’

M.

of his powerful mind in the exercise of his ministry. He was appointed to preach a sermon before Lord Mornington and the principal officers of the government, on the day appointed for a general thanksgiving for the late signal successes obtained by the naval and military forces of his majesty, and of his allies ; and for the ultimate and happy establishment of the tranquillity and security of the British possessions in India.

This sermon was so generally approved, that Mr. Buchanan received the thanks of the Governor General in Council, with a direction that it should be printed. It was founded on Psalm xxi. 11.

Its subject-matter was, principally, the character, the progress, and the effects of the new French philosophy, to which he justly attributed the awful struggle in which this country was then engaged.

Copies of Mr. Buchanan's thanksgiving sermon were distributed by order of Government, in every part of the British empire, and produced an uncommon sensation, and tended to a considerable extent to change the *tone*, to say the least, of feeling and expression on subjects of which it so luminarily and impressively treated. 'You may easily conceive,' he observes, writing to a friend in England, well acquainted with the prevalence of sceptical principles at that period in India, 'the astonishment of men at these religious proceedings. However all was *silence* and decent acquiescence. It became fashionable to say, that religion was a very proper thing, that no civilized state could exist without it ; and it was reckoned much the same thing to praise the French, as to praise infidelity.'

The importance of this public recognition of Christianity as the only basis of civil prosperity, was soon perceived in the increasing attention to personal religion. This is therefore an important era in the history of the progress of Christianity in India. Christian society was soon observed to increase and flourish. Merit was patronized, immoral characters were marked

and young men of good inclinations were encouraged and distinguished.

The following observations of the good Mr. Brown at this time are confirmative of the above statement :—

‘These solemn acts,’ observes that excellent man, and the public thanksgiving which took place for the first time under Marquis Wellesley’s government, awakened a *religious sense* in many, and led to an open and general acknowledgment of the divine providence, which has been highly beneficial to the interests of true religion and virtue.’

Mr. Buchanan now received frequent communications from different parts of India, on religious subjects, and questions on infidelity. He observes, ‘This subject is often forced upon me, but I have seldom permitted myself to *defend* Christianity.* I have usually acted on the offensive, and attacked infidelity.† This is a very unpleasant mode to the infidel. ‘During the last year,’ he adds, ‘I have received many anonymous letters on polemical divinity, but the correspondence has generally ended in real names.’

The following is from another hand :—

‘There is an evident change in the face of society ever since I have been here. Lord Wellesley seems inclined to support the Christian religion by *every* means. Vital religion is also increasing. It seems to be fostered under the wing of that general sanction to Christianity which has lately been given. This is the only place in India where religion has been countenanced. We have now many families here in which piety meets with real encouragement.’

On the 18th of August, 1800, the College of Fort William, which had been virtually in operation since the 4th of May, was formally established by a minute in council. The important bearing of this institution

* When Dr. Watson’s Apology for the Bible was put into the hands of George the Third, he repeated the word several times,—apology—apology—‘I did not know the Bible needed any apology.’

† See Faber on the Difficulties of Infidelity.

on the interests of Christianity will justify more than a reference to it in these pages. Mr. Buchanan in a letter to Mr. Grant thus briefly alludes to this important measure, 'Lord Wellesley is at present engaged in founding a college for the instruction of young civil servants in eastern literature and general learning.*

The Rev. Mr. Brown was appointed to the office of provost, and Mr. Buchanan to that of vice-provost. The duties devolving on each are thus described in the College statutes :—

'It shall be the peculiar province and sacred duty of the provost, &c., governing the College of Fort William, to guard the moral and religious interests of the institution, and vigilantly to superintend the conduct and principles of all its members.' Divine service was directed to be regularly performed in chapel at such times as the provost should appoint. By this institution two hundred students, the whole generation of English India, were placed under the care of these two excellent men and profound scholars.

With the commencement of the year 1801, the important duties of each were entered upon and cheerfully sustained. Early in this year Mr. Buchanan wrote to his friend Mr. Grant, 'The greater part of the students promise to distinguish themselves. There are as remarkable instances of application here as I have known at Cambridge. Both the churches are generally full.' A little after he writes, 'No impropriety of conduct is known ; all is silence, study, and decorum ; all dine in the college hall in the presence of the professors. There are some instances of a serious spirit of religious inquiry among the students. No such field is anywhere to be found for learning and piety, as that which Calcutta at this time exhibits. Our church continues in much the same state in which I described it to be in my last. We have had an addition of some communicants, chiefly from college.

* 'The College of Fort William in Bengal,' published by Mr. Buchanan, 1806.

‘The chief labour of the churches is fast devolving upon me. My religious correspondence in India is greater than at any former time. The congregations at the New Church are more numerous than ever.’ He subsequently writes, ‘Our churches are more crowded than ever. Even on Wednesday evening there is a great number, and good is done. Some of the students attend on that evening; their presence warms the heart of old Mr. Obeck; they know and visit him. How would Mr. Grant rejoice,’ he sometimes says, ‘to see these things!’ The pillars are removed, and a number of additional seats made to accommodate the many who come.’

While the members of the College of Fort William were zealously employed in the prosecution of their labours, the Governor General in Council, on the 15th of June, 1802, received with the utmost concern the commands of the Court of Directors for the immediate abolition of the important institution. On the 22nd following, Lord Wellesley communicated this dispatch to Mr. Buchanan, who, in common with every other friend of the College, deeply lamented this unexpected determination. In this document instructions were given to supersede that institution by the revival of a seminary which had existed previously to the establishment of the College; but no modification or extension of that plan could, as the Governor-General contended, embrace the objects proposed to be secured by the collegiate establishment of Fort William. Lord Wellesley therefore expressed his decided conviction that the present establishment was necessary to secure proper order and discipline together with good morals and religion.

But the orders of the court were imperative, and seemed to require their immediate execution. To this therefore, his lordship accordingly proceeded, but in fulfilling this painful duty, a most serious and difficult question arose with regard to the time when the abolition of the college should take effect. The determination of this question involved principles so deeply

affecting the welfare, future prospects, and just expectations of the students, professors, &c. that Lord Wellesley felt himself compelled to declare that the abolition of the college of Fort William, must be gradual, and that the institution should not terminate before the 31st of Dec. 1803, when the great body of the students then attached to the college, would have completed the course which they had so successfully commenced. His lordship also expressed a hope that his memorial would induce the directors to alter their determination.

Early in the year 1803, Marquis Wellesley presided at the second annual disputation of the students. The result was most satisfactory. The following extract from a letter of Mr. Buchanan to his wife in England, well describes his own feeling on the subject. 'You say that you hear the college is abolished. It has been long abolished in London, but it still exists here in greater spirit and utility than ever, and it must continue to exist (though perhaps under a different name) as long as the British empire reigns in India.' The directors wish the institution to be called a *seminary*, and then they will support it. I have no objection to the name, provided the young men are taught, and they must be taught in future. Much has been effected by the institution of the college. Of the students who have just left college, only eight out of thirty have contracted any debt. Many of them have saved money, a thing unheard-of in India, and by the old civil servants accounted impossible. The reign of native money-lenders is now at an end. Satisfied, however, with the good that *has* been done by the institution, we wait submissively for the period of its dissolution, which will be in December next.'

The following extract is peculiarly interesting, as shewing the exalted state of Christian feeling relative to the great work to which Mr. Buchanan was so sacredly devoted. 'My heart seeks to be disengaged from collegiate labours, and to find rest and refreshment in the one spiritual work of the everlasting gospel. Fortune

or fame cannot add an hour's happiness to my present existence, but they may interrupt it. I feel a secret pleasure in the purpose of the directors to abolish the college as it respects *myself*; but I feel at the same time that its continuance under other men would be favourable to my evangelical labours in this country.

'In perfect confidence therefore that God will order all things aright in time, manner, and event, I implore direction of His Spirit to improve the passing day. My chief source of despondency at times is want of fellow-labourers, of learned and serious men in this vineyard, where there is so numerous a body of well-educated young men. I would willingly at this moment give 50,000 rupees, £5000, for two respectable and religious young men established at the church in Calcutta, and capable of conducting the studies of the college.'

The bad effect produced on the minds of dissipated and ill-disposed young men by the abolition, is thus briefly stated :—'On the arrival of the order of the court of directors abolishing the college, the students found that religion and morality formed no part of the plan substituted, and so absolutely did they consider the court's opinion to be favourable to the old system of relaxed morals, and contracting debt, that they circulated a placard in college, containing a parody of Henry the Fourth's speech to his son, beginning with these lines :

'Pluck down my officers ; break my decrees,
For now a time is come to mock at form.

'Have you a ruffian, (a writer,) that will swear, drink, dance,
England (the court) shall double-gild his treble guilt,' &c. &c.

The religious part of the community perceived the evil that would necessarily follow immediately. Good old Obeck sighed from his heart, and exclaimed, 'Cruel, cruel!' while the *banyans* (money-lenders) and the old leaven in the service grinned their ghastly exultation. The wound inflicted by that letter on religion and exemplary morals is not healed to this day. The first

symptoms appeared in the gradual secession of the students from the mission church, &c.

‘In the midst of all “the Lord reigneth.” His gracious providence hath ordered all things aright—hath produced the good already done, and will overrule the evil past and to come, to His own glory and the good of His faithful Church on earth. If God were pleased to give me my heart’s desire, he would give me more grace and a greater sense of the value of souls ; with a measure of greater health and more undisturbed leisure to make known the glory of the Gospel among the people here, during the short period that may be allotted to my ministry.’

During this exciting period, Mr. Brown’s health was fast failing him, and he was in a fluctuating state of mind, whether to go to England or remain longer in India.

It is with pleasure we turn from this account of the establishment and results of the College, to notice the general effects of Mr. Buchanan’s and Mr. Brown’s ministry. Among the individual instances, is a Major Sandys, who, in a season of affliction, had been led to attend the faithful preaching of these devoted men of God. Their ministry was eminently blessed to the bringing him to the knowledge and open profession of the Gospel, from the proud holds of philosophical infidelity. To this gentleman, with whom Mr. Buchanan afterwards maintained an uninterrupted and affectionate intercourse, he wrote, after his return to Europe on account of ill-health, as follows :—

‘I suppose you will have seen all your friends by this time, and settled your plans, &c. We do as usual in Calcutta. Serious religion appears to increase. Mr. Obeck is still alive, but declining fast. He begs his blessing on you, whom he calls “a young man,” and wishes you a long Christian life. You are quite forgotten by the gay world here, even by those who used to feast with you sometimes. Those who are always asking me about you, are the poor people who knew you but half-a-year. — is sick. He has had many attacks. *She*


cures access to God, and warrants an answer to our prayers.'

'Thus,' said he, 'the perusal of the word of God was blessed to my soul. I received it in its plain and obvious meaning, and I have had a constant experience of its truth through my past life. It has been a light to my steps, and a lantern to my paths. Its peculiarities appear now all light and glory in my soul. I know that the denunciations of God against the despisers of his Gospel, will be expressly executed, and I know that his promises of glory to the righteous will be fulfilled in a way that eye hath not seen, or ear heard, or hath entered into the heart of man to conceive; and the anticipation of this glory is to me *unutterable*. My prayer at my last moment is, that this power of the Gospel may be felt more and more at this place; that the blessing of God may rest on this Church; that the ministers may labour in the word with zeal and faithfulness, and that the hearers may receive the word preached with meekness and affection, that so the testimony of the Gospel may prevail, and the Church of Christ may begin to flourish in this dark corner of the world.'

'I leave,' he added, 'my blessing on this Church. As to my numerous family, I leave them with scarcely the means of subsistence; but I leave them dependent on that gracious providence, which has supported me from my youth to age, in a state of apparent poverty, and yet possessing abundance. I leave my children to God as to a surviving father, who will care for them as he hath cared for me, and will I trust bless my instructions to the salvation of their souls.'

'As to *myself*, my hope is in heaven. The promises of God are in a manner wholly fulfilled to me. His truth and faithfulness are demonstrated to my soul. By his mercy "I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth," &c.

Such are the sentiments, the expressions, and the heavenly hope of this good man.



In the same month, another deeply interesting character is noticed by a valued brother, as follows :—

‘My dear ——

‘I am returned from hearing a most affecting and impressive discourse from Mr. Buchanan, with a degree of feeling that does honour to his heart, on the occurrence of the last week. I am anxious that Mr. Buchanan should know how grateful I feel for this high tribute of respect to the memory and virtues of a beloved brother, and I therefore entreat you to express to Mr. Buchanan my sincere gratitude for this distinguished mark of regard for him. Tell him that he has afforded to my mind a real consolation, and that I trust I shall ever after be the better, for the affecting and forcible manner in which he has held forth to imitation, the example of a life of true piety.

‘Never while I live will the memory of Mr. Buchanan’s solemn discourse on this melancholy occasion be obliterated from my mind.

‘Your ever affectionate,
‘N. B. EDMONSTONE.’

The person thus alluded to was Mr. Archibald Edmonstone of the Board of Trade. His life was uniformly marked by a deep tone of consistent profession, of the purifying religion of Christ. His last words were, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who through his abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a lively hope,” &c. 1 Pet. i. 3. ; which words were engraven on his tomb.

These are a few names in that then Sardis, of which a better state of things remains to be told.

In the month of November, 1803, Mr. Buchanan first communicated his thoughts on the expediency of an ecclesiastical establishment for British India, in letters to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to the rest of the episcopal bench, having previously submitted them to the Marquis Wellesley. The reply which he re-

ceived from the late Bishop Porteus confirmed and encouraged him in his determination to bring that important subject before the public. His object was to point out the expediency of such a measure, 'both as the means of perpetuating the Christian religion among our own countrymen, and as a foundation for the civilization of the natives. The inadequate state of the clerical establishment in India at that period, for the great purposes of the instruction and religious communion of our resident countrymen, formed the first part of the Memorial. In the second part he supposed such an establishment to have been given to India, and proceeded to consider the result with respect to the native population. After describing in just and forcible terms their actual condition, the pride, immorality, and bigotry of the Mahomedans; and the vices, enormities, and barbarities of Hindoo superstition and idolatry, Mr. Buchanan argued out the policy of attempting to civilize and improve their condition. He writes—'Their apathy is extreme, their prejudices daily weakening in every European settlement, divided in an opinion political and religious, more tenacious of custom than of opinion, and thus to disseminate new principles among them is by no means so difficult as it is frequently represented.'

The third part of the Memoir strongly confirmed the practicability of the proposed plan of ultimately evangelizing the nations of Hindostan. Many interesting facts were stated relative to the existence of Christianity in India from the earliest ages, and particularly respecting the native Christians, on the coast of Malabar.

The Memoir was with great propriety, and in a strain of dignified and impressive eloquence, dedicated to His Grace the then Archbishop of Canterbury.

In an appendix to the Memoir there is a variety of very important information on the superstitions of the Hindoos, tending powerfully to correct the erroneous opinion so commonly entertained of them at that period as a mild, humane, and inoffensive race.

To return to the subject of the College of Fort William. According to the regulation of Lord Wellesley, in obedience to the decision of the Court of Directors, it was to close on the 31st of December, 1803. It was, however, a very gratifying circumstance to the friends of that institution that on the 3rd of January, 1804, a dispatch announced to the Governor-General the determination of the Court, that the College should for the present continue on its original footing.

In the course of the year 1804, several circumstances occurred, connected with the College, which were particularly interesting, as showing the state of feeling then existing both among Europeans and natives. The following is an extract from a letter to Major Sandys in the month of February :—

‘ We are much the same in church, state, and college, as when you left us, only that I am literally alone in many matters of a public nature, particularly in a battle now fighting (the worst that I have yet had) with Mussulman and Hindoo prejudices against translations of the Scripture. Their clamour has assailed the government. Lord Wellesley and Mr. Barlow are neuter ; but the old civil servants fan the flame. A folio volume would not detail the particulars, but I trust you will soon hear of the good effects. In the meantime I am growing infirm in body, and long for more holy employment than that of hewing of wood and drawing of water only for our future sanctuary in India. I know that what is doing is useful ; but spiritual comforts do not accompany the occupation in the degree I desire, and look forward to, when I have peace from public conflict.’

So early as the year after the present period of these memoirs a commencement had been made in the translation of the Scriptures into several languages. The first version of any of the gospels in Persian and Hindoostanee, which were printed in India, issued from the press of the College of Fort William. The Persian was superintended by Lieut.-Col. Colebrooke, and the Hin-

reign Bible Society, and to some other public bodies, as well as to many private gentlemen. In India, copies were transmitted to nearly the whole of the principal civil, and to many of the military officers in the Company's service, from Delhi to Travancore, to many of whom the mission at Serampore was previously unknown. Mr. Buchanan obtained permission at the same time to send the proposals in his official character as Vice-Provost of the College, free of expense to all parts of the empire ; and, he accompanied them, in most instances, with letters, which amounted to about one hundred from himself.

In two of these letters to friends in England Mr. Buchanan informed them it had been at first intended that they should issue from the college under the sanction of government. It appears that he communicated the manuscript to the Governor-General ; but although he was personally disposed to favour the undertaking, he declined authorizing a measure which might appear to identify the government too closely and prominently with an extensive plan for promoting Christianity among our native subjects. Whatever may be conceded as to the cautious policy of this conduct, it cannot but be regretted that the noble and extensive work thus projected could not have been placed under the immediate superintendence and controul of the College of Fort William, possessing as it did, in the assemblage of Oriental scholars collected around it, such superior facilities for its execution, connected as it was with the Church of England, and consequently affording a pledge both as to soundness of principle and unity of design, which could be expected from no other quarter.

It was, however, plainly implied in the proposals, that the undertaking would enjoy the countenance and support of the College ; and it was doubtless on this ground that the concurrence of the public was principally obtained. That expectation was accordingly expressed in the following terms :—

‘Our hope of success in this glorious undertaking depends chiefly on the patronage of the College of Fort William. To that institution we are much indebted for the progress we have already made. Oriental translation has been comparatively easy in consequence of our having the aid of those learned men from distant provinces in Asia, who have assembled during the period of the last six years at that great emporium of eastern letters. These intelligent strangers voluntarily engaged with us in translating the Scriptures into their respective languages, and they do not conceal their admiration of the sublime doctrine, pure precept, and divine eloquence of the word of God. The plan of these translations was sanctioned at an early period by the Most Noble the Marquis Wellesley, the great pattern of useful learning. To give the Christian Scriptures to the inhabitants of Asia is indeed a work which every man who believes these Scriptures to be from God will approve. In Hindoostan alone there is a great variety of religions, and there are some tribes which have no certain cast or religion at all. To render the revealed religion accessible to men who desire it; to open its eternal sanctions, and display its pure morals to those who seek a religion, is to fulfil the sacred duty of a Christian people, and accords well with the humane and generous spirit of the English nation.’

Another passage of the document from which the preceding extract is taken, announced to India the formation and the proffered friendship of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as furnishing material encouragement to the proposed undertaking. Thus accredited and patronized, the address from the missionaries at Serampore was advertized in the government gazettes and published throughout India, and such was the approbation with which it was received, that in a short time the sum of sixteen hundred pounds was subscribed in aid of the intended translations.

Thus a gradual but satisfactory change in the state of things in reference to Christianity in India had

worked its way to the glory and praise of God, who raised up the instrument and worked effectually by the means employed.

It was in this year, 1806, that the Rev. Henry Martyn and the Rev. Daniel Corrie, who was afterwards raised to the episcopate of Madras, arrived in Calcutta. The life and writings of Henry Martyn are too well known to need any detailed account either of himself or of his labours. Not so of that eminent servant of God, the late Bishop Corrie. It was the privilege of the writer of this sketch to know him intimately, and to have the advantage of his fatherly counsel throughout the course of his own ministry. The following brief memorial may suffice, as a memoir is on the eve of publication :—

The name of Corrie is associated with the best benefactors of India. Buchanan, who laboured till he made the woes and wants of India pierce the ear of England, was his friend. The humble, laborious, and spiritual minded Brown loved him tenderly. Henry Martyn, who laid all his splendid talents at the foot of the cross, devoting them to the Lord, who redeemed him with his own most precious blood, loved Corrie as an only brother. And Thomason, amiable, talented, and pure in heart, the friend, companion, and fellow-labourer of these devoted men, felt a holy joy, in the success of Corrie's labours, and entertained for him a brother's tenderness and regard.

Bishop Heber, whose name will live, loved Corrie, and thought he promoted his Saviour's cause in promoting his faithful servant. Bishop Turner, a profound theologian, an elegant scholar, of enlarged mind and most spiritual in his affections, and possessing, in a high degree, discrimination of character, entertained for Archdeacon Corrie a warm attachment and a brother's love, which was most cordially returned by Corrie's tender heart and devoted spirit. Brown and Turner were his first and last and most beloved friends.

The Rev. Daniel Corrie, having been nominated a

chaplain on the Bengal establishment, arrived in India towards the close of the year 1806, in the 29th year of his age, full of love to his Saviour, and of devotedness to his ministerial duties. His college friend, Henry Martyn, was then in Calcutta, burning with zeal, and bright with sanctified knowledge and Christian love. By Brown and Martyn he was warmly welcomed, and most affectionately did these friends regard each other, and earnestly seek India's real welfare from the sole giver of every good and perfect gift.

For a few months after Mr. Corrie's arrival in India he continued in Calcutta, rejoicing many hearts by the evangelical plainness and purity of his preaching, and by the fervour of his zeal and holiness. His first station in the *Muffusil* (up the country) was Chunar, where he soon was able to speak to the natives in Hindoostanee, of which he had acquired the rudiments during his voyage out. He engaged a native Christian to teach and catechize, and established schools to instruct native children in the truths of the gospel. Benares, about twenty miles distant, had also the benefit of his visits and ministrations. He loved his Saviour ardently, and for his Saviour's sake he loved the people among whom the Lord had placed him. This love he manifested by preaching the gospel, establishing schools, and erecting churches. By the assistance of his friends, of whom one of the foremost was Dr. J. Robinson, brother of the late Archdeacon, he raised a small church at Secrol, soon after another at Benares, and in 1818 the beautiful church at Chunar, after a model of the one he served in England, together with a small chapel at Buxar, for the poor invalid soldiers and their wives, who were chiefly native women. At this place he located a native catechist, by whom a native school was formed in which Christian principles were fully and successfully taught. Mr. Corrie left Chunar in 1810, to join his friend Henry Martyn, and to unite with him in ministerial labours at Cawnpore. Here he continued not much more than one year, being

forced by a severe attack on the liver to relinquish his duties for a season and proceed to Calcutta, and thence as soon as possible to sea. Mr. David Brown went with him in the same ship in a dying state. Tempestuous weather drove the ship back almost a wreck, and about a fortnight after Mr. Brown's spirit was relieved from the troubles of life and entered into glory. Mr. Corrie soon after embarked in a ship bound to the Mauritius; but again a storm arose and the vessel was obliged to put in at Vizagapatam. His health having improved he prosecuted his voyage no farther, but returned to Calcutta before the close of the year.

This was an important period of his life. In Nov. 1812, he married Miss Myers, who proved to him a help-meet from the Lord. Her mind was strong, her judgment excellent; her natural talents cultivated with great care, and her affections purified and regulated by the word and Spirit of God. After twenty-four years of happy union, Mrs. Corrie died in Dec. 1836, to be followed, alas! in six short weeks by her husband.

Mr. Corrie being appointed to Agra in 1813, took with him that venerable servant of Christ, Abdul Messeh, who had been brought to the knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, by Henry Martyn, and baptized the year before by David Brown. Abdul was indeed a convert, and being converted, he strengthened his brethren, and brought souls to the Saviour. A native congregation was soon formed at Agra, and soon counted fifty members. The word of the Lord grew and prospered, but within two years a dangerous attack on the liver drove Mr. Corrie from India for a season to visit his native land. During a stay of about two years in England, he was much engaged in preaching for the Church Missionary Society, and in turning the hearts of British Christians to the spiritual destitution of their fellow men in Hindoostan. On his return from India with Mrs. Corrie, and an infant daughter, in the middle of 1817, Benares became the scene of his ministrations and devoted labours. It was while here that he raised

through the help of friends, the fine and beautiful church at Chunar, (his first station) and the chapel at Buxar. At this time he devoted much of his care and thoughts to the Church Missionary Society, by establishing schools in connection with the Society for the Christian education of Hindoos and Mahommedans.

In 1819, he became presidency chaplain. While filling this important office he pursued his plans and exertions in the cause of education, and with great cordiality welcomed and aided that excellent and indefatigable lady, Mrs. Wilson, in her arduous efforts to promote native female education.

The gifted Bishop Heber conferred on Mr. Corrie the appointment of Archdeacon of Calcutta, in the year 1823, on the death of Dr. Loring; an appointment which reflected high credit on that amiable prelate's judgment, and associated the weight of responsibility and high office, with the meekness, humility, experience, fervent piety, and talent of Corrie—thus making them all more influential for the promotion of true religion, and the good of the church.

His appointment to the Archdeaconry did not entirely prevent him from doing something personally for the native congregations so dear to him. Besides the addresses which he never failed to address to them whenever opportunity offered, he translated, at the desire of Bishop Middleton, Sellon's Abridgment of Scripture—the Prayer Book, and many of the Homilies, into Hindostanee. He likewise drew up Outlines of Ancient History in English, for the benefit of native youth. The third edition of that simple and excellent work was considerably enlarged, and was translated by another hand. Its great value consists in the tone of pure Christian principle which pervades it, making all history prove that "sin is the reproach of any people," and that "righteousness," and righteousness alone, "exalteth a nation;" that all good cometh of God, and all evil from the corrupt heart of man.

The deep interest which Archdeacon Corrie took in

the cause of scriptural education, led him to project a classical and English school, denominated the 'Calcutta High School,' which valuable institution was organized and finally established by the judicious and holy Bishop Turner, the successor of Bishop Heber.

In 1834, after a sojourn of nearly twenty-eight years in India, Archdeacon Corrie was called to England to be raised to that high station in the church for which the grace of God had so eminently qualified him. His natural powers and qualifications, a humble view of himself, simplicity of heart and purpose, unbounded benevolence, and a calm sound judgment, being so sanctified by the Divine Spirit, and so turned into the channel of holiness, rendered him the object on which all eyes looked, and many hopes rested, when Madras was erected into a bishopric. His striking humility, his eminent zeal, his devoted fidelity to the cause of simple evangelical truth, his transparent purity of character, and spirituality of mind; his calm judgment, his firmness in essentials, and his liberal views, were the religious and intellectual endowments which raised high hopes of his being a truly eminent bishop. Nor did his exceeding urbanity and gentleness, his condescension to all, his affectionate attention to the young, and his extraordinary winning voice and look, fail to be reckoned up amongst those characteristics which drew towards him the hearts and hopes of thousands.

On Trinity Sunday, 14th of June, 1835, Archdeacon Corrie was consecrated Bishop of Madras by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Bishops of Lichfield, Carlisle, and Bangor. The University of Cambridge conferred upon him the degree of L.L.D. On the 24th of October, his lordship landed at Madras, and on the 28th of the same month, was installed in the cathedral church of St. George's. He preached his first sermon on the following Sunday, from Gal. vi. 14. "God forbid," &c.

The choice to be the first Bishop of Madras, fell on this venerable servant of God; and never was choice

wiser, and never were fond hopes more fully realized. Every chaplain and missionary rejoiced, thanked God, and took courage. Time was daily ripening and mel-
lowing every Christian grace, and developing every talent. Our venerated bishop brought the Christian experience and the fruits of a thirty years ministry in India, to bear upon all that came before him. Never did kindness and gentleness, patience and forbearance, and consideration for the opinions of others, shine more conspicuously than in Bishop Corrie. And never were the necessary qualifications of firmness, dignity, and wisdom, more separated and purified from every base alloy, than in the beloved subject of this imperfect and unworthy tribute.

Unworthy as every sketch must be of an original so preeminent, it is given as a testimony from one who knew and loved him. His was indeed a bright example, and as such it is thus presented to the reader. To God be the glory ! The brightness exhibited was a ray reflected from Him who is the brightness of his Father's glory. He shone as a light, but it was because the Spirit of glory and of God rested on him ! Let us follow him as he followed his divine Lord and Master, Christ.

The following sketch of the lamented wife of Bishop Corrie will not be without its interest, as one of the last employments of his hand and pen :—

'Mrs. Corrie's parents were among the first fruits of the ministry of the late Rev. David Brown, many years senior chaplain in Calcutta. She was brought up with great care, and had the privilege of being much in Mr. Brown's family. Her mother took great pains to preserve her from the influence of native servants, and herself instructed her in the various branches of female education at an early age. Mr. Brown perceiving her aptness to learn, took also great pleasure in teaching her the elements of Hebrew and Syriac ; and the scriptures in the original Hebrew soon became familiar to her. It may be mentioned that she acquired in early life a cor-

ceive me?' The bishop answered—' Does He not say, "Come unto me,"' &c. and also reminded her of the passage which her early friend and pastor, the Rev. D. Brown, when on his death-bed, pointed out as the most surprising passage in all the Bible, Jer. iii. 1, &c. The passage was read to her, and after a pause she said, 'Yes; I feel that I *am* a child, though a naughty one'—adding, 'though some were further off from the brazen serpent than others, yet as many as looked lived.' She also said, 'When one comes into these circumstances we cannot but see our unprofitableness.' Once when she seemed, a little easy, the bishop said to her, 'Can you repose in the arms of your heavenly Father?' She added, 'And in Jesus the Mediator.' At another time she said, 'I dare not doubt his power or his willingness.' At another time, 'Whom he loveth he loveth to the end.' Soon after she said, 'There I shall see our dear ones—we have two in heaven and two on the way.' Then to her daughter she said, 'See that you follow, and tell Laura the same, that none of our family be wanting.' The bishop said, 'You will see your dear father too.' She added, 'And my grandmother,'—with more on the subject of seeing as we are seen, and knowing the Saviour as we are known of him. After the family had breakfasted she received the Lord's Supper, when she desired her daughter, and also Miss Hutchins to attend. Her breathing was so difficult, that after receiving the elements, the service was for a time interrupted, but was at length brought to a conclusion; she joined with evident fervour, and at the close added an impressive *Amen*. While suffering most she repeated in broken accents, or by repeating a word or two suggested to the bishop to take up the subject:

'I'll speak the honour of his name,
With my last lab'ring breath,' &c.

repeating several times at intervals,

'Dying, clasp him in my arms.'

During the forenoon of Wednesday, among the verses repeated was :

' Beneath thy cross I fall,
My Lord, my life, my sacrifice,
My Saviour and my all.'

dwelling on the words—'*my sacrifice.*'

At another time :—

' Lo, glad I come, and Thou, blest Lamb,
Shall take me to Thee as I am,
Nothing but sin have I to give
Nothing but love shall I receive.'

When alone with her daughter, soon after the bishop had retired to get a little repose with a view to the approaching night, she brought the subject before her in the following manner as recorded by herself. After speaking of the near approach of her death, she blessed me with deep affection, and afterwards said, ' I have two angels in heaven, I am blessed indeed ; and dear Laura too ; give her my love,' &c. with much more. The same evening, after a pause she said, ' I have been too fond of the world, and its love and admiration, but God has weaned me from it by this long illness.' Almost the last words she spoke were—' What is that?—" I looked and there was no deliverer,"' &c. Violent spasms came on, and she "*entered into rest.*"

How oft we see the dearest plans we form,
Fade in the sun, or perish in the storm !
How oft the brightest hopes their pinions wave,
Then cease to soar, and find an earthly grave.
Weep, India, weep ! a Father's loss deplore ;
For he who sought thy welfare is no more.
And he whom Martyn loved, is called away
To meet his friend in realms of cloudless day.
Quenched is that light which once so brightly shone,
And all the mildness of its radiance gone ;
For India has received another blow,
In that true shepherd of Christ's sheep laid low.
A watchman's voice in Israel has been hush'd,
And many a hope in Corrie's grave been crush'd.

He who so meekly all his honours bore,
Shall wear his crown upon a happier shore.

Though Hindostan has lost a heaven-lit gem.
'Tis gone to deck a Saviour's diadem.
Though here no more his light shall shed its flame,
The fountain of that light is still the same.
The church has lost a tender pastor's care,
But still to Jesus may that church repair.
The pillar rent from Zion's earthly fame,
Shall in the temple of our God remain,
And though a faithful watchman we deplore,
The word he preached shall live for evermore.

It was in 1806, that Mr. Buchanan entered upon his long-projected journey to the south of the Peninsula ; but as his researches in that part of India have been long before the public, and extensively read,—any further notice of them here is unnecessary, besides which, the present sketch is only intended to embrace North India.

In March 1807, Mr. then Dr. Buchanan, returned to Calcutta, having accomplished an arduous and most interesting journey of more than five thousand miles. It was with deep regret that he found that the college of Fort William, which had flourished and produced such important results, had been reduced and crippled in its operations.

In the progress of this extensive journey it was, that Dr. Buchanan conceived the design of a Christian Institution, which was afterwards established in Calcutta, and must now be noticed, but only briefly, as Dr. Buchanan himself published his reflections on viewing the distant towers of Juggernaut from an eminence on the banks of the Chilka Lake, and the design which he then conceived of some Christian institution, which might gradually undermine the frightful idolatry he had been contemplating, and blot out its memory for ever.* The historian of the decline and fall of the Roman Empire informs us, that he first conceived the thought of his elaborate and eloquent work amidst the ruins of the Capitol. It was an association of a more sublime and sacred nature, which suggested to Dr. Buchanan

* Christian Researches. p. 31.

the design of the institution, the general plan of which he then briefly described.

Soon after his return to Calcutta, he employed himself in digesting and arranging its form and constitution ; and on the 28th of May he thus adverts to the subject, at the close of a letter to Colonel Macaulay :—

‘ By the Indus I send home a small work for publication, not in relation to Malabar, but to Juggernaut ; nor to him directly, but to a Literary Institution, whose object shall be to promote Christian knowledge in Asia by means of books ; which institution shall be exclusively literary, and shall have no connection with any missionary society. The institution already exists, and is in extensive operation.’

The work alluded to was printed, but afterwards deemed not expedient to publish. The title was as follows :—‘ The Christian Institution in the East ; or the College for translating the Holy Scriptures into the oriental tongues.’ The origin and object of the institution were described nearly in the terms of the preceding letter. It was dedicated to all good men, to be an instrument in their hands of extending the knowledge of revealed religion, by the translation of the Holy Scriptures, and was placed under the immediate patronage of the Archbishop of Canterbury, as President of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. One of its subordinate objects was, to print small tracts on certain branches of art and science, fitted for popular use and improvement.

The various instruments of the institution were next enumerated, comprizing the venerable Bishop of the Syrian Church in Malayala—the British and Danish missionaries throughout India,—Judah Misrahi, a learned Jew of Cochin, engaged by Dr. Buchanan as a translator of the New Testament into Hebrew,—Professor Lassar, for the Chinese language,—and the late Rev. Henry Martyn, with two learned coadjutors, natives of the East, for the Persian, Arabic, and Hindostanee languages. With the exception of Mr. Mar-

tyn, who arrived at Calcutta during the absence of Dr. Buchanan, he stated that he had visited all the before-named persons at their respective residences, and had informed himself as to their abilities and principles. It was not intended to form an expensive establishment ; but that a professor should be stationed as a literary agent of the college in each of the principal provinces of the East, to study a particular language, to collect information, to correspond with the Society at home, to compose and to print books, and to instruct the natives in printing, &c.

Such is a partial outline of the college thus proposed for oriental translation. The intention in short was to establish a British Propaganda, which in proportion to the extent of its object, should be superior to that of Rome, the fame of which still survives in Asia. Upon its original formation, Dr. Buchanan proposed to the Baptist missionaries at Serampore, being then extensively engaged in translating the Scriptures, that they should associate, merely in that character, with other fellow-labourers in different parts of India ; which proposal was however declined by them, and the name of the ' Christian Institution ' was in consequence but partially assumed, and but imperfectly carried into execution.

With respect to the main design of the ' Christian Institution,' as a college of acknowledged responsibility, embracing the associated learning and piety of the East, for the grand purpose of sacred translation, and possessing commanding patronage, effective support, and enlarged superintendence and control, the failure of its establishment can scarcely be considered but a subject of regret.

We may now return to a further notice of Dr. Buchanan's proposal of an ecclesiastical Establishment. In reply to Dr. Buchanan's memoir, he received a valuable letter from the then Bishop of Llandaff, which is inserted at the close of the Christian Researches, and to which the reader is referred. Subsequently in a

perate firmness of a man, who knowing that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation, is neither ashamed to profess, nor afraid to defend it.' The Memorial states the four following facts: first, the withdrawal of the patronage of Government from the translation of the Holy Scriptures into the oriental tongues. Second, attempting to suppress the translation of the Holy Scriptures. Third, suppressing the encomium of the Honourable the Court of Directors, on the Venerable Missionary Swartz. And fourth, restraining the *Protestant* missionaries in Bengal from the exercise of their functions, and establishing an imprimatur for theological works. Not a word of reply was vouchsafed, but the Memorial sent home with unfavourable animadversions, &c.

The painful transaction which has been thus detailed was nearly the last of a public nature in which Dr. Buchanan was engaged in Calcutta. The time was now approaching for his second and final departure from that city. Accordingly in the month of November he preached his farewell sermon to the congregation at the Mission Church from the words, of St. Paul to the Philippians, chap. i. 27. "Only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ."

In a confidential letter to a brother, the venerable Brown thus writes of this man of God:

'You ask me if Dr. Buchanan is my friend? I answer, I know no man in the world who excels him in useful purpose or deserves my friendship more. Perhaps there is no man in the world who loves him so much as I do; because no man knows him so well. Further, no man in the world I believe, would do me service like him. We have lived together in the closest intimacy ten years, without a shade of difference in sentiment, political or religious. It is needless to add, without a jar, in word or deed. He is the man to do good in the earth, and worthy of being metropolitan of the East.'

About the close of 1806, this excellent man and at-

tached friend of Buchanan, who thus bears testimony to his worth, had the happiness of forming an association for correspondence with a small band of fellow-chaplains, his friends, who to strengthen each other's hands, and encourage one another, agreed on mutually communicating such observations and facts as they gleaned in their respective labours. Among these, Mr. Brown had generally the greatest share of intelligence to impart; being placed in what had become, through the blessing of God, the most fruitful field of the Eastern harvest.

The first communication was made according to agreement by this venerable man, as follows ;—

'Calcutta, Jan. 5th, 1807.

'At our last meeting at the pagoda, (for prayer and consultation,) on the 9th of December, I was requested to transmit to my dear brethren copies of the paper No. 1.* It was written under a painful retrospection of past unprofitableness in the ministry, depressed and opposed, from the beginning, my hopes at the end of fourteen years were nearly broken. I have now cause to bless the Lord that he put it into my heart to propose a union for secret prayer.

'Since the year 1802 we have been enabled to go on from strength to strength. The cloud of embarrassment which for several years hung over the mission-church, was, in July 1805, removed by government, who paid 12,064 rupees on its account, and gave a monthly allowance of 234 rupees for its support. I ought perhaps to communicate the paper proposing the establishment of an evangelical fund. Our success has been great; the property is now valued at forty thousand rupees. This may serve to shew that small beginnings should be no impediment to the commencement of useful plans. Let us call to mind Professor Franke, and the foundation of the orphan-house at Halle, in Saxony. In outward

* The document here referred to I cannot find.

as well as in other respects, we have been raised from a low estate. The prospects now opening are most cheering to our hopes.

‘A BIBLE SOCIETY.—A TRANSLATION FUND.—AN ACCESSION OF MINISTERS OF THE GOSPEL.—I was led to notice some of these matters in my sermon on the morning of new-year’s day.

‘On Christmas-day I was called to bear a testimony before our governors. I preached from Isaiah xxv. 9. As texts, sermons, &c. are to form part of our quarterly correspondence, I trust my brethren will not be sparing of their communications under this head. I send extracts from mine—No. 1, 2, 3. A good outline will often be useful and edifying.

‘You will recollect that one of our last conversations when we parted with our friend Martyn, was on the *right mode of preaching*. I have by me some thoughts of the venerable Joseph Milner on the subject—copy of which I inclose, No. 4. You will observe that this letter is eighteen years old. They were written to a young military chaplain, placed precisely in your circumstances.

‘The most material communication which I have to make on the subject of events since our dispersion, is the sickness of Mr. ——. On Saturday the 20th of December, he was seized with fever and bowel-affection. His physicians thought him to be in danger. I called frequently at his quarters, but did not see him till yesterday se’ennight. He presently began to speak freely on the subject of preaching the gospel. He observed there were various shades or sorts of preaching which could not be called preaching the gospel; that some left out religion entirely, and kept to morality alone, and that such preaching would suit an heathen as well as a Christian. Others again preached piously, but the piety was of a description that would suit an Arminian or Calvinist, or even a Socinian equally well;—but that neither was the gospel of Christ. He then noticed with expressions of deep humility, and with tears, the defec-

tiveness of his own ministry. He said he had always held the fundamentals of Christianity, but that it had been the error of his whole life, till lately, not to bring them sufficiently forward. He now perceived that the peculiar doctrines of the gospel were the vital principles which gave it all its power and influence.

‘I could not but speak warmly of the faithful testimony which we had heard him bear to the truth as it is in Jesus; he replied with melting and broken accents,—“If I have contributed but a mite to such a cause, I shall deem it the happiest circumstance of my life; but I fear I have done nothing towards it.”

‘The unfeigned humility and contrite confession of an elder brother affected me much. He considered his change of views as a happy change, and seemed fully satisfied there was no rest, hope, peace, or comfort, for a sinner, from any other doctrine than Christ alone. He spoke of each of you with the overflowing affection of a grateful heart. Has your ministry, my brethren, done no good? Have you destroyed the souls for whom Christ died? (as you have been charged by some)—Is not such a tribute worth all the scorn you have met with from unreasonable and wicked men?

‘In noticing events I ought not to pass over in silence the change in my own circumstances by the abolition * of the offices of Provost and Vice-Provost of the College of Fort William, which took place on the 31st ultimo. This did not however prevent me from enjoying the happiest new year’s day I have known in India. The vessel is somewhat lightened—a load of envy, responsibility, and anxiety is removed. I have long been satisfied of the truth of that divine aphorism which saith—“A man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.” Abundance adds nothing to the support of life—nothing to the enjoyment of life—nothing to the protection of life.

* Mr. B. proffered his gratuitous services to the Governor-General, on the abolition of the offices; but they were not accepted.

‘This has been a season of uncommon *spiritual* comfort to us, and we have been enabled to say—

‘When all created streams are dried,
Thy fulness is the same;
May I with this be satisfied
And glory in thy name.’

‘On Wednesday evening, 31st Dec. I preached a retrospective sermon on 1 Cor. ii. 1—4. I noticed the apostle’s plainness of speech : verse 1, subject-matter of preaching : verse 2, and circumstances of infirmity : verse 3, I appealed to the congregation that I had endeavoured to follow the apostle in the two first particulars, and that I had resembled him in the third.

‘The first time I preached at the mission-church was on Good Friday, 1787, and my subject was taken from the 2nd verse of the above text. On the 1st of Jan. I met some of the friends belonging to our prayer-union, and proposed to form a prayer-meeting under my own direction, on the plan adopted by Mr. Simeon. It will commence in the course of next month, when the mission-house will be ready. We shall make mention of you always in our prayers.

‘On the 3rd of January, eleven ministers of the gospel met Mr. —, previous to his departure for the coast, at the Pagoda, to commend him to the grace of God. It was an occasion much to be remembered unto the Lord for his gracious presence, and our uncommon mutual edification. ‘The 150th Psalm is a proper finish to this my first report, “Praise ye the Lord.”

D. BROWN.’

At the end of the first quarter, Mr. Brown again addressed his friend as follows :—

‘*Aldeen, April 6, 1807.*

‘You are already acquainted with the circumstances under which we commenced the new year. Mr. — continued to bear his testimony among us until the

beginning of February. At the Presidency Church, he was heard with uncommon attention and acceptance. In his last sermon on "*The way of salvation*," he concluded his discourse in the following words: 'Thus they preached who have lately passed through this place to their respective stations in this Presidency, and to them I desire in the most solemn manner to add this my parting testimony also. We commend ourselves, and the gospel we preach, to your consciences in the sight of God. We call you not to subjects of doubtful disputation, but to things in which all are agreed who worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. We preach not for party or contention's sake. We seek not to entangle or encumber the conscience of the weakest Christian. We seek, my brethren, but to lead you to happiness by the way in which we have found peace to our own souls.'

'When Dr. Buchanan returned to Calcutta he naturally enquired what conversions had taken place from such uncommon opportunities of hearing the gospel. If we cannot point out particular instances we can state that there has been a general effect produced, which cannot fail to be favourable to the progress of true religion. Those who know the Lord have been excited to give more earnest heed to divine things, and have been quickened to greater diligence in the path of duty and greater zeal for the cause of Christ, and to a more fervent spirit of prayer and thankfulness, and to take a more particular interest in the spread of the gospel and for the support of missionary efforts. Again, several who were heretofore but half-enlightened have received more light. Some who halted between two opinions are become decided, and promise to adorn their Christian profession. Lieutenant-Colonel ——— has shown much seriousness for some years past, but I always suspected that his religion was buried under a rubbish of self-righteousness. He lately stated his views to a friend in reference to the discussion of doctrines in Calcutta, and they now appear to be clear,

decided, and consistent. As I have known many persons sit long under the faithful preaching of the gospel in a purblind state, never understanding whether God justifies the sinner, or the sinner justifies himself, I am rejoiced to find that so much good has arisen to a class of hearers whom I always considered as the most hopeless part of the flock.

‘The attention of some of the inconsiderate, I think, has also been awakened, and we may hope that a good work is beginning to be wrought upon them. On Easter-day Dr. Buchanan preached from 1 Peter i. 3, “Who hath begotten us again to a lively hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” A most weighty and powerful discourse. It was a word in season, very awful and affecting. Thus has the same gospel been preached at this presidency by seven chaplains in the course of a few months:—surely he who sent it will prosper it.

‘On the 31st of January we had a prayer-meeting in the Pagoda, previous to the departure of Mr. and Mrs. — for the coast. We had a party of near thirty. It was a season very comforting and refreshing to our spirits. On the preceding Sunday we heard of the safe arrival of Messrs. — at Rangoon, and of the very favourable reception they had met with there. On *Monday* arrived Dr. Buchanan with all his boxes of MSS. safe. He had sent some of them in the *Rahim-Shah*, which in the course of his voyage he overtook and found in distress; the passengers wished to leave the ship and to come to Bengal in the *Danesberg*. Dr. Buchanan thought he might as well remove his boxes. The passengers, more anxious for their own trunks than his MSS., filled the boat; and the boat upset before Buchanan’s boxes were on board. A large boat was then sent to fetch the passengers, and with them the MSS. arrived safe on board the *Danesberg*. At our meeting on the 17th, we had abundant cause for many thanksgivings to God. Every man from Chunar to Rangoon was at his station. Mrs. —, whose life had

been despaired of, was restored, and I had additional motives for thankfulness in my own late family mercies. We mentioned by name all who had before assembled with us at that place, and every station to which they had gone forth, viz., Bombay, Madras, Vizagapatam, Rangoon. We made mention of the mercies vouchsafed to Bengal, at Calcutta, Serampore, Cutnar, Dinapore, Barampore, and Chunar, nor did we forget any who are engaged in missionary labours or other labours for the spread of the gospel.

‘Mr. — sailed with Captain — for St. Helena in February. He seemed to increase every day in humility and zeal, and I hope he will live to preach Christ at St. Helena and the Cape where he means to go. The temper of his mind will best appear from the following extract of a letter he wrote me from on board the Harriet:—

‘“ A letter from you was, next after those which I received from my dear family, one of the greatest gratifications which my present situation admits of. The kind remembrance also of those revered and esteemed friends who are my brother-clergy, but whom I look up to as examples in their labours in the teaching of the truths of the gospel, must needs be highly grateful to me. In your correspondence with them, remember me with the utmost kindness and affection to them. With respect to the sermons you speak of, I shall find no trouble in copying them legibly at your desire. I anticipate some disappointment you will meet with in them. If it has pleased God to enable me to speak one word of truth, you will see too plainly that we are not to think to be altogether secured against the weakness of him by whom it is delivered, &c.

‘“ Many thanks for your cordial wishes and your prayers for me, which I value as the prayers of one whose prayer I believe ‘availeth much.’ We had on board for a short time a Mr. —, who appears to me a true Christian, and who had exerted himself in that first of our duties, the enlightening the heathen, and


who moreover comes much recommended to me as a friend of yours. If you see him after this arrives, I will beg you to make my best compliments to him. His children are quite well. May God bless you, my dear Sir, and be with you and yours, &c.

“ *Saugar, 24th February, 1807.*”

‘ Our worthy friend, Captain —, is quite well, and received your letter together with the one to me.

‘ Captain — was at the Mission-church on the Sunday evening before he sailed : after service he came into the vestry and requested me to visit a sick friend of his, a Captain — (one of the Company’s captains). I found him in great distress of soul, overwhelmed and trembling under a sense of sins, he said, “ All the Scriptures are against me.” I asked him, what scripture? He replied, “ Woe unto you when all men speak well of you.” He went on to say, “ I have lived upon this plan, and I have succeeded. I have been that good moral man the world approves and applauds ; but now I see myself in another glass. I perceive my life to have been wicked, selfish, deceitful. My most honourable transactions, and those for which I am most commended by the world, were dishonest and vile, having a bad principle at the bottom. Now my sins come to my remembrance, and lay heavy on my heart, and I am so oppressed I cannot pray, &c. &c.”

‘ I told him his complaints were like sweet music to my ears, I wished I could hear such from all the human race, for then the Gospel would be acceptable tidings. I told him, that much as he seemed to know and feel of his case, he did not know a thousandth part of the evil of it, yet I trusted that he knew enough to make help welcome. We then turned to the Psalms, which expressed similar complainings — then to the prophet offering consolation, “ Ho, every one that thirsteth, &c.,” then to the holy evangelists, “ Let not your heart be troubled, &c.” Then we prayed, and parted perhaps to meet no more in this world. His spirit seemed re-



freshed. Next day I sent him a list of texts from the whole book of Psalms suited to his distress, and a tract called, 'A Remedy of God's own providing, &c.,' which had once been blessed to myself under distress of mind. I also sent him Watts's fine translation of the fifty-first Psalm. He returned the following answer :—

'Feb. 6, 1807.

'DEAR SIR,

'After being sometime asleep last night, towards morning I got up, and had some comfortable hours after continuing in prayer for some considerable time ; but alas, I am clouded again—however I will strive to the last, and oh, that I may find acceptance, for my case is heavy indeed. I thank you sincerely for your precious little book. Oh that I could find comfort from it ?—However, I will struggle to the last.

'I remain, dear Sir, your obliged,

' (Signed) P. —

'The wish of my heart will be to write you of peace and acceptance from Bencoolen.'

'On the day following, Capt. — and he went down to their ships at Diamond Harbour.'

These precious relics appear to the writer of this sketch of more value than the most elaborate record of mightiest deeds of mightiest men. They are the simple annals of passing occurrences, entirely of a religious character, and showing to the life what was the religion of the day.

Mr. Brown continues, 'In what remains I shall confine myself to "signs of the times." What is going on in our own confined spheres of action, is but as the dust of the balance. I suppose we are each looking forward to the evangelizing of the whole earth, and that we shall think nothing done while any people or nation remain unconquered by the cross.

'All our Governments of India have opposed the diffusion of the knowledge of Christianity among the na-

tives. This opposition, however, is the effect of mere panic, which is vanishing fast away like smoke. Dr. Buchanan has consulted me on the expediency of his returning by the route of Antioch at the end of this year. I have entirely acquiesced.'

Among the communications addressed to the Rev. Mr. Brown by the friends engaged in this correspondence, the following, from the Rev. Henry Martyn, will be read with interest :—

'I begin my first communication to my dear and honoured brethren, with thankfully accepting their proposal of becoming a member of their Society, and bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for this new instance of his mercy to his unworthy creature. May His grace and favour be vouchsafed to us, and His Holy Spirit direct all our proceedings, and sanctify our communications to the purposes for which we are united !

'On a review of the state of my mind since my arrival at Dinapore, I observe, that the graces of joy and love have been at a low ebb. Faith has been chiefly called into exercise, and without simple dependence on the Divine promises, I should still every day sink in fatal despondency : self-love and unbelief have been suggesting many foolish fears respecting the difficulties of my future work among the heathen. The thought of interrupting a crowd of busy people like those at Patna,* whose everyday is a market-day, with a message about eternity, without command of language, sufficient to explain and defend myself, and so of becoming the scorn of the rabble, without doing them good, was offensive to my pride. The manifest disregard of the people, and the contempt with which they eyed me, confirmed my dread. "Sufficient for the day is the evil thereof;" "As thy days, so shall thy strength be," were passages continually brought to my remembrance, and with these at last my mind grew quiet. Our country-

* About twelve miles from Dinapore.

men, when speaking of the natives, said, as they usually do, "they cannot be converted," and, "if they could, they would be *worse* than they are!" Though I have observed before now that the English are not in the way of knowing much about the natives, yet the number of difficulties they mentioned proved another source of discouragement to me. It is surprising how positively they are apt to speak on this subject through their never acknowledging God in anything. "Thy judgments are far above out of their sight." If we labour to the end of our days without seeing one convert, it shall not be worse for us in time, and our reward is the same in eternity.

'The cause in which we are engaged is the cause of mercy and truth, and, therefore, independently of revelation and seeming impossibilities, it must eventually prevail.

'I have been also even occasionally troubled with infidel thoughts, which originated perhaps from the cavillings of the Mahomedans about the person of Christ, but these have been graciously never suffered to be more than momentary; at such times, the awful holiness of the word of God, and the deep seriousness pervading it, were more refreshing to my heart than the most encouraging promises in it. How despicable must the Koran appear with its mock majesty and paltry precepts, to those who can read the word of God. It must presently sink into contempt when the Scriptures are known.

'Sometimes when those fiery darts penetrated more deeply, I found safety only in cleaving to God as a child clings to his mother's neck. These things teach me the melancholy truth, that the grace of a covenant God can alone keep me from apostasy and ruin.'

What a beautiful picture is this part of the letter of Martyn's mind!

'The European society here consists of the military at the cantonment, and the civil servants at Bankipoor. The latter neither come here to church, nor have ac-

cepted my offer of going to them to officiate. There is, however, no contempt shown, but rather respect. Of the military servants, very few officers attend, and, of late, scarcely any of the married families, but the number of privates and the families of the merchants, always make up a respectable congregation. They have, as yet, heard very little of the doctrines of the Gospel. I have, in general, endeavoured to follow the directions contained in Mr. Milner's letter on this subject, as given in Mr. Brown's paper, No. 4.

'At the Hospital I have read 'Doddridge's Rise and Progress,' and the 'Pilgrim's Progress.' As the people objected to extempore preaching at church, I have in compliance with their desires, continued to use a book, but on this subject I should be glad of some advice from my brethren. I think it needless to communicate the plans or heads of any of my sermons, as they have been chiefly on the parables. It is of more importance to observe that the word hath not gone forth in vain,—blessed be God! as it has hitherto seemed to do in most places where I have been called to minister, and this I feel to be an animating testimony of His presence and blessing. I think the commanding officer of the native regiment, and his lady here, are seeking their salvation in earnest. They now refuse all invitations on the Lord's Day, and pass most of that day at least in reading the word, and at all times discover an inclination to religious conversation. Among the privates, one I have little doubt is truly converted to God, and is a great refreshment to me. He parted at once with his native woman, and allows her a separate maintenance. His conversion has excited much notice and conversation about religion among the rest, and three join him in coming twice a week to my quarters, for exposition, singing, and prayer.

'I visit the English very little, and yet have had sufficient experience of the difficulty of knowing how a minister should converse with his people.

'How repeatedly has guilt been brought upon my

conscience. Oh how will the lost souls with whom I have trifled the hours away, look at me in the day of judgment. I hope I am more convinced of the wickedness and folly of assuming any other character than that of a minister. I ought to consider that my proper business with the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made me overseer, is the business of another world, and if they will not consider it in the same light, I do not think that I am bound to visit them.

‘About the middle of last month, the church service being read in Hindostanee, I submitted to the commanding officer of the European regiment a proposal, to perform divine service regularly for the native women of his regiment, to which he cordially assented. The whole number of women, about two hundred, attended with great readiness, and have continued to do so. Instead of a sermon, the psalms, and the appointed lessons, which were not translated, I read in two portions, the Gospel of St. Matthew regularly forward, and occasionally make some small attempts at expounding. The conversion of any of such despised people is never likely perhaps to be of any extensive use in regard to the natives at large, but they are a people committed to me by God, and as dear to him as others, and next in order after the English, they come within the expanding circle of action.

‘After much trouble and delay three schools have been established for the native children on Mr. Creighton’s plan ; one at Dinapore, one at Bankipoor, and one at Patna : in the last of which the Persian character is taught as well as the Nagree ; the one in use among the Mahomedans, the other among the Hindoos. The number of children is about 60. The other schoolmasters, not liking the introduction of these free schools, spread the report that my intention was to make them Christians, and send them to Europe, in consequence of which the Zemindars retracted their promises of land, and the parents refused to send their children ; but my schoolmasters very sensibly went to the people, and told them, ‘We

has been much on my mind. While the college continued I was obliged to be almost daily in Calcutta, and the Evening Lecture made no great difference; but now that the cases of the college have ceased, and the calls of duty were at home, I thought five hours in the week too much to sacrifice (for so many broken days are at least made by the Wednesday and Thursday being partly occupied); I told them I would wait six months and consult with Dr. Buchanan. He decided for giving up the lecture. But when it came to the point, I found an host rise up against my determination; so, for peace and love sake, I go on as usual, and the discussion is put off *sine die*.

' *Events*.—Some late sudden deaths have spread a gloom over Calcutta.

' 1. Mr. —, visited his Indigo works at Russapaglah, one morning, and returned home rather indisposed. No danger was apprehended till about eight or nine o'clock in the evening. By two o'clock he was dead. He had some knowledge of the gospel, but he who lives according to "the course of this world," whatever may be his knowledge, will die in uncertainty, and so it ought to be that presumption may not be encouraged in any, yet Mr. — left a sort of testimony in writing. I desired Mr. Buchanan to send Mrs. —, Mr. Cecil's little book — 'A Friendly Visit to the House of Mourning.'

' 2. Colonel — was a great man with his master, and a great infidel. "How are the mighty fallen!" their report and no sign of salvation is found in them.

' 3. Mr. —, a young man of considerable talent, an active magistrate, adored by the world, the intimate of Mr. —, and his acting executor, burst a blood-vessel and expired suddenly.

' 4. During the last quarter, we have lost several members of the mission congregation. Mrs. Hutteman left a noble testimony, and had an entrance administered abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To preach the funeral sermon of departed saints is delightful work. May my

dear brethren have much of it! It has been one of my best supports. Now and then one going off triumphantly to glory, is a sweet refreshing consolation. And when I stand by the death-beds of such dear children, I forget the labours and sorrows I have had by the way.

'5. A lady who attends the mission-church, told her husband about a month ago, that it had pleased God greatly to change her mind on some points, and had brought her to a patient acquiescence in the divine will; that she had formerly considered the loss of a child as more than she could bear, and that she should certainly become distracted; 'but now,' said she, 'if it should please the Lord to take away a child, I hope I could submit.' Within the month, a child was taken away, and suddenly, after some slight indisposition; the mother found it one morning black with mortification, from the knee to the foot, and from the elbow to the finger-ends, and it presently expired. The mother kneeled down before all present, and gave thanks to God with a loud voice, kissing the rod, and adoring his hand. I found her in great peace, and rejoicing in divine support. Is not this the finger of God?

'6. An old lady lately afflicted with sickness, and yet very ill, has by deed of gift made over to the evangelical fund, in Company's paper, sixteen thousand rupees. Is not this an event! The fund (now forty-three thousand rupees in cash, and a house) is valued at half a lac of rupees. Thus has God prospered an undertaking which began (in Dec. 1802) as a grain of mustard-seed.

'7. Pagoda Prayer-meetings, this year:—1st. On the 3rd of January.—2nd. On the 31st.—3rd. On the 17th of March; a thanksgiving.—4th. On the 2nd of June; to be henceforth held monthly, on first Thursday, for the success of the gospel.—5th. On the 7th of July; (this day). At each of the last meetings six missionaries and Sabat were present.

'I must now conclude (sermon fashion) with a word

on family and personal mercies ; but who can count the sum of them ? or how shall I in a page mention more than one or two instances : the increase of my family by another added soul, is a mercy to be mentioned with grateful recollection. We have now eight children whom we wish to educate for God, and for whom we ask not for long life, for riches, or honour, except that which cometh from above !

‘ My hand tires—I must yet add a few words : I trust we are growing in family religion. We have more of the spirit of prayer among us, and more power in our religious exercises. I find greater facility in expounding to the children, and gain more attention, and though I have sad cause to complain of the plague of my own heart (who has not ?) yet I am fighting for victory in his name, who has overcome, and who makes more than conquerors all who fight under him.

‘ I shall conclude by adding, that no thought ever fills my mind with so many pleasing reflections as your advent to the East Indies. When I think you all over, and pray for you by name, I feel unexpressible satisfaction ; and rejoice with exceeding joy in the hope of seeing the beginning of a more glorious gospel-day. Mr. Thomason in a letter just received says, he has been sickly, but adds, ‘ My mind however, I thank God, is the same as ever, wholly bent upon India, and full of hope almost against hope ! ’ Is it not a marvellous thing to see so many of you at your posts fighting the battles of the Lord ! I do, and will rejoice, and shall never cease to pray for you, while I have my being, nor to praise God for you with increasing esteem and affection.

‘ Dearest brethren,

‘ Your faithful friend and brother,

(Signed)

‘ D. BROWN.’

The following extract from a farewell sermon preached by Dr. Buchanan on occasion of his departure from Calcutta, will give a tolerably correct view of the state of

the religious community of Calcutta at that time. The subject chosen was the epistle to the church of Philadelphia, from which he took occasion to illustrate the then existing state of religion in Calcutta. He observed after some preliminary observations:—

‘You will naturally advert to your own state and circumstances as a church, &c. and will now expect that we should illustrate them more fully.

‘In our Lord’s address to the churches, he generally uses the same words as a preface,—“I know thy works,”—as if he had said, all of you make a profession of religion, but I know thy works; I know whether the voice of prayer be ever heard in thy family, or the voice of secret prayer in thy closet. I know the *motives* of thy conduct, whether thou supportest religion from conscience’ sake, or from motives of convenience, interest, or reputation. I know whether thou art a “whited sepulchre,” walking about with my people, or whether thou art “pure in heart,” worthy to see God.

‘Our Lord having asserted his own omniscience, in the perfect knowledge of our works, proceeds to declare what our state and circumstances are.

“I have set before thee an *open door*, and no man can shut it.” In the application of these words to the Church he was addressing,’ Dr. Buchanan observes, ‘a short time ago, the door was shut even in regard to ourselves, and we dwelt in the region of darkness and in the shadow of death. Held captive by infidelity or blinded by prejudice, we appeared to be as insensible to the call of Christ as the ignorant heathen around us. The very acknowledgment of the religion of Christ was in those days accounted an act of fortitude; but that his religion ought to be given to the heathen world, was what scarcely any man had fortitude to declare. But the door is now opened, the door of utterance to his ministers, a door of entrance into the hearts of hearers, a door of admission to the Gentile nations. “And this door,” saith our Lord, “no man can shut.” Many attempts will be made to shut it. If the work be from

God, it will be resisted by evil men. If Satan's kingdom be in danger, the design will be opposed by infidelity and superstition. But the door is opened, and our Lord has declared for our encouragement, that no man can *shut it*. And he speaks a *prophecy* in the text, in those very remarkable words, far more applicable to us and to our day, than to the Church of Philadelphia,—“Behold! I will make them of the synagogue of Satan to come and to worship before thy feet.” They who are now bound in the chains of Satan and enslaved by a senseless idolatry, they will come unto thee and seek communion with thee. The truth shall be declared, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. For the fulness of time is come, for the appointed season is at hand, and from this time and from this place the Gospel of the Son of God will run and be glorified through the countries, the kindreds and tongues of the eastern world.

‘Little of this great work can be seen in our time, little more than the “loosening of the bonds,” and the “shaking of the nations,”—we all who are now alive must pass away almost in the beginning of the conflict. But it is much to have seen the day of glory dawn. It confirms our faith in the true word of God, and when we thus see his dispensation accomplishing in regard to nations, we are led to look to ourselves to see whether his dispensation in regard to us be also accomplishing, whether the “day-star hath yet risen in our hearts,” and we have a good hope of entering into his glory as forerunners of them that are to come after.’

How far the anticipations of the preacher have been realized will be seen in the subsequent pages of this brief sketch.

We are next led to notice the appointment and subsequent career of that venerable servant of Christ, the Rev. Mr. Thomason. It will be recollected that his earlier appointment was overruled in favour of Mr. Buchanan, respecting which their mutual friend Mr.

Jerram at that time observed, that nothing could be more evident than that the hand of God was in it, and pertinently remarked on the different and varied qualifications of each. It was on this occasion that the following letter was written to his mother.

‘Yesterday evening Mr. Simeon communicated the result of his correspondence with Mr. Grant. The inference is so decisive in his mind and mine, that I do not lose a moment in informing you of it. It appears evident that a minister who is not calculated for usefulness at home, will never become useful abroad, and that change of place or employment cannot of itself quicken the soul, which for eight years has been sleeping over its labours. I feel the truth of this more deeply than I can express, but not a thousandth part so deeply as I should. Having now dismissed all thoughts of foreign service, I hope to give myself wholly to the work that is before me. May God enable me to live more to Him, “lest after having preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away!”’

The humility and genuine Christian spirit generally pervading this letter is strikingly characteristic of the man. However Mr. Simeon concurred with Mr. Thomason in the interpretation of God’s providence at the present juncture; the reader need not be told that he differed wholly from his self-condemnatory reflections and inferences. Notwithstanding that the door of missionary labour was closed upon Mr. Thomason for the present, it is not long before we are called on to contemplate him under another aspect,—‘waiting like one of those angels who at God’s bidding post over sea and land, listening to the first intimation from on high to go wherever he might be sent.’ If the chains of local attachment had bound him too strongly to Sheldford, they were soon to be snapped asunder: if his affections had wound themselves too closely round anything earthly, the roots were soon to be loosened and removed to another soil. In this waiting, willing spirit, Mr. Thomason had not long to remain. It was put to the

test at the end of 1806, but it was not till the spring of 1808, that Mr. Thomason's long-meditated design of consecrating his powers through life to his God and Saviour in a distant land, was brought to maturity. He thus imparted the state of things, and that of his own feelings, to his mother.

‘ *March 4th, 1808.*

‘ My acceptance of the appointment has not yet come before the court of directors, yet I cannot help feeling that the event will assuredly be brought about. I own that the more I consider the various leadings of divine providence, and reflect on the unweaned tenor of my former wishes and plans, comparing them with what I now feel, the more am I convinced, that such a change of my situation will be accomplished. And I think, my dear mother, when you reflect on the course of my life from the beginning,—on the singular manner in which I was led to devote myself to the ministerial work,—on the course of providence by which the matter was brought about,—and above all, on the earnest and repeated desire I have felt again and again for this particular destination,—especially when you think, that the work of my heart has been uniformly prevented by one great obstacle, and that this is now entirely removed, I think that you will conclude that the time appears to be come. The same person who was once decidedly adverse, so as not to hear of it without tears, is now happy in the thought of it. She no longer thinks of the sea nor of the climate ; but counts it a privilege and an honour to be exposed in such a cause.

* * * *

I consider that what others expose themselves to for lucre and worldly honours, ministers ought to endure for nobler ends.

‘ All this I am sure meets with corresponding feelings in your own heart, my dear mother ; you have again and again given me up to God, &c. What an honour and happiness there is in making sacrifices for Christ. I am sure the more we are enabled to do this, the more

solid peace shall we enjoy, and the more shall we know him to be a good Master. I trust that you will be fitted for every trial, and strengthened to do and suffer the whole will of God.'

Filial affection of the intensity of Mr. Thomason's, subordinated, as we behold it in this letter, to the love of an unseen Saviour, and to a concern for the souls of his fellow-creatures far off and unknown, is a spectacle for angels, observes the author of his incomparable memoir.

In little more than a month after he had written it, he was studying Persian under a Moonshee, at Hertford; having received his appointment to the mission church of Calcutta, he was making use of every effort to acquire a language so important in India, and panted to be at his post.

He writes:—'I have commenced the laborious and important work; laborious indeed it will be, but I set about it with unspeakable pleasure, and I trust that God will help me in it. The prospect of spending my strength and my life in the work of the ministry, where help is so much wanted, and the field of labour extensive, is indeed delightful.'

When the ship was actually under weigh, and England was beginning to 'lessen in the lingering eye,' he wrote the following parting lines to his affectionate mother:—

'Travers, under weigh, June 10, 1808.

'This morning we were summoned on board. The wind has become fair, and we are proceeding out to sea. Our dear and honoured friend Mr. Simeon accompanied us to the vessel, and is now with us. We all retired to our cabin, and united in prayer, desiring to consecrate this spot to God, and to commit ourselves and all the ship's company to his gracious care, &c.'

A full account of his voyage, and the circumstances of it, are recorded in the Memoir by Mr. Sargent. Suffice it to say here, that he suffered shipwreck.

To Mr. Simeon from Calcutta, Mr. Thomason wrote on the all-absorbing subject of his providential escape as follows :—

‘ Dec. 5, 1808.

‘ Here we are, by the good providence of our God, at the wished-for haven. June 10th, we left Portsmouth. Nov. 19th, we arrived at Calcutta ; but we have arrived in a way we did not expect, not only *over* the waters, but *through* them. On the morning of Nov. 7, the Travers struck upon a rock, and in a short time was a complete wreck. The ships in company escaped in all haste from the scene of danger, and were soon out of sight. We were left, *not to the mercy of the winds and waves, but to the mercy of God*, who marvellously interposed and brought us off in safety, &c.’

Mr. Simeon’s comment on his friend’s preservation, is too appropriate and characteristic to be omitted :—

‘ How deep and mysterious are the ways of God ! that you should be made willing to transport yourself and family, and all you had, to the shores of India, and then be landed on these shores, glad to escape with your lives ! You review the calamity in its true light, I adore my God for giving you so just a view of it. God has said to you as to the first-born of Egypt : “ I have spared your lives, and you shall be mine.” I trust it is not the wish of either of you that a commutation of the Levites should ever take place. You are well contented and happy that His *service* should be your *one* employment, *himself* your *only* portion. . . . I am persuaded that God has designs of good towards you and the people of Calcutta. The exercises of love to which your necessities have called them, will, I hope, be matured to a habit, and such an attachment be formed as shall endure to all eternity.’

Mr. Thomason’s arrival at Calcutta gladdened the hearts of many in that city, who received him as from the dead, especially that of Mr. Brown, who welcomed him as he had done Mr. Martyn before, with all the

cordiality of Christian love. His first interview with that eminent servant of the Redeemer, he thus touchingly narrates: 'We both sat down, but it was long before my tears suffered me to speak. They were tears, as I told him, not of sorrow, but of joy and thankfulness, wonder and praise. He told us to look around the walls—the furniture and the house were ours. It was a house built in faith and prayer, as the residence of a missionary, out of the contributions of a number of poor persons, who many years past had subscribed towards a fund for the support of the gospel, and united their prayers, that God would send them a minister. Need I say that every chair and table spoke to us with a voice that thrilled through our hearts, and overwhelmed us? Truly we could then praise God for our shipwreck! We could see a good reason for the dispensation. It was plain that God had thrown us upon his praying people, that he had cast us from the rest of the world, and laid us under the obligations of Christian love, in order that we may be devoted to the sacred charge of feeding his sheep. He has placed us in circumstances where every thing is actually the fruit of faith and love, in order to teach us that we have but one thing to do.

'Mr. Brown next introduced us into the vestry and church, where many had assembled the evening before to thank God for our deliverance, and pray for a blessing on the minister preserved to them.

'The second Sunday after landing at Calcutta, Mr. Thomason commenced his ministry from the text, "Knowing the terrors of the law, we persuade men." Mr. Brown also, the same day, preached a thanksgiving sermon for the greater part of the crew of the *Travers*, few of whom, however, attended the sermon, and fewer still the Sacrament administered the following Sunday by Mr. Thomason, with express reference to their signal deliverance.' In the same letter he says, 'If it please God to spare my life, I hope to give some efficient aid in translations. At present, of course, I can do nothing,

but *others* are doing wonders. Honoured and beloved Martyn, whose face we are not likely to see for a long time, is doing, as always, great things.'

The following is an account of distribution of labour. On Sunday two services; one at eight in the morning, and another at eight in the evening. On Thursday evenings he had a service, and on Saturday evenings he assembled the children in the church, accompanied by their parents and friends. Another evening of the week was allotted to visiting those who were decidedly religious; they met together at different houses for the purpose of hearing the Scriptures expounded, &c., but the state of society was adverse; he wrote to Mr. Simeon, as to the progress of the gospel. 'In addition to the common difficulties, arising from the character of the *heart*, there are obstacles here which are tremendous. The civil servants of the Company hold the highest rank, you may call them the nobility: then come the merchants, the shopkeepers, the half-cast. These form so many circles of distinction, and so many sorts of pride, which have had a sad effect in checking a free intercourse among the people. With certain unavoidable exceptions, these do not mix together, and will hardly be seen together. The religious people I have seen in Calcutta have retained these prejudices. The bringing them to worship God in the same room has been a strange thing among them. Our regular congregation at the old church is much smaller than you would expect—not more than 250 on an average; on the week-day 100; but you are to recollect there are no servants in this number. The church would contain 450.

'You have no idea in England (he writes after a somewhat longer residence in India) of the peculiar difficulties which oppose the progress of the gospel in this place. They are prodigious, and in the greatest degree discouraging; arising partly from the nature of the climate, and partly from the nature of the society, and chiefly from the close intercourse with the wretched

natives, who are more degraded than you can imagine, and who have the entire charge of the children, and management of household matters. The natives swarm around us, and corrupt the minds of children from the earliest years. To an Englishman the effect of their example, and the contagion of their language cannot be adequately represented. The natives become mothers of a progeny, notorious for bad morals and weak minds. There are some favourable exceptions, but only a few can be mentioned. Religion alone raises them : this gives a solidity of character ; they become trusty and well-behaved. These form a great majority of our congregations. The number of rich people and Company's servants, who come to Church, is comparatively small ; the better sort of people send their children home at five or six : until then, they are under the charge of native servants, and their minds are poisoned, as far as they can be, at that tender age. The parting from them is heart-breaking. They part with them, very often never to see them more. This produces a sad derangement in society. *There is no such thing as a domestic circle.* The olive-branches round the table, so delightful in England, are unknown. The children cannot even speak their mother-tongue. They have to learn English on their way home. There is a dissolution of all the tender, amiable, cheering household virtues. These observations apply to the far greater number among us. Some there are who diligently labour against these disadvantages, &c. It is a fixed rule with us that the children are always in the presence of one among us. We never suffer them, not for a moment, to have any intercourse with the servants alone.'

In less than half a year Mr. Thomason's congregation increased, and considerable interest in religion was excited, and instances of decided impression came to the knowledge of the minister. 'Not even in Cambridge,' he testified, 'have I witnessed such deep and solemn attention to the word of God.'

Having made considerable progress in Persian during

the voyage, Mr. Thomason gave himself, in addition to his ministerial employments, to the study of Hindostanee and Arabic. He writes, 'We rise very early, and return from our morning ride by six. At half-past six we have family prayer; at seven we breakfast. Between that and two I am in the study! at two we dine. At three I am in my study again till five: then we have family prayer, and, from six till nine or ten is occupied in riding, and visiting friends, in private parties and public duties. I have found it necessary to decline all invitations to dinner, without exception. This has enabled me to be regular, and very retired, without giving offence. Our week-day meetings in private houses would rejoice your heart.'

That such devotedness of time, talent, and whatever endowments he possessed, should be owned and blessed of Him, from whom cometh all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, who gives the single eye and the heart unfeigned, is only to expect the fulfilment of the divine promise. 1 Cor. xv. 58. So favourably had Mr. Thomason's labours been received, that before the lapse of six months, it was necessary to enlarge his church; and though the days, as they rolled on, were scarcely distinguished from each other, in the prosecution of the work of each day, he had the most perfect enjoyment. One comfort was wanting to him, and the want was felt,—a minister of congenial sentiments stationed near him, with whom he might have unreserved intercourse, &c.* 'At this time' he writes, 'the word of God does not appear to be *very rapidly* advancing, yet we hear of much that encourages us. The work of catechizing seems to promise good, but we want the outpouring of the Spirit, and until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, no *very great* good can take place among us; we are praying for this; without this we may toil all night and catch nothing. Oh that the preacher may

* The Rev. D. Brown was at this time living at Aldeen, at some distance from Calcutta.

catch the sacred fire, and the people rejoice and be glad.

‘I find our Thursday evenings profitable times ; we are going through the gospel of St. John ; the congregation does not much exceed one hundred and fifty people, but they come to hear plain truths, and we often find the Lord is with us indeed.’

In what spirit he was thus doing his master’s work at this time, the following remarks tell us. ‘We are in the sixth chapter, “The bread of life.” My subject this evening includes these two verses, “He that eateth my flesh, &c. As the living Father hath sent me, so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.” What can a poor empty creature say of the fulness there is in Jesus. What can I say of Jesus dwelling in me, and my dwelling in Jesus? *O how we fritter away these passages, if we are not living nigh to God*, and enjoying the glorious knowledge of the gospel in daily dependence on the Redeemer! This I want very much, nay, lamentably, and my people will be meagrely fed. That word “dwelleth in me, and I in them,” fills my soul with wonder, and abases me in the dust. I would know it and feel it, but know not how I would speak of it ; and recommend it, but have no heart for the marvellous theme. Will God in very deed dwell in this diseased polluted heart? Does he dwell there? And can I, a vile and wretched sinner, be said to dwell in him? Though I scarcely dare say yes, yet I feign would come and cast myself upon the Saviour. It is my only refuge and hope, and if this reposing of the soul in Jesus, be indeed to eat his flesh and drink his blood, I would now do it, yea, I must do it. Still I cannot lay hold on that word, “dwelleth in me and I in Him.”

‘I feel very remote from this,—it is too high, I cannot reach it. I feel like a blind man leading the blind. My comfort lies in the freeness and sovereignty of God’s grace ; for while it gives strong meat to those who are full-grown, it administers milk to the babe.

‘My dear and honoured brother, you know not how

Mr. Brown had summoned him to direct his efforts to that end, can it be affirmed that it was hurried to a conclusion with a heedless and blameable precipitancy.

'Twas not the hasty product of a day,
But the well-ripened fruit of wise delay.

'It is a real refreshment to my spirit,' Mr. Martyn writes to Mr. Corrie, 'just at the moment of sending off the first page of the Testament to Calcutta, to take up my pen to write to you. Such a week of labour, I believe, I never passed, not excepting even the last week before going into the Senate House. I have read and corrected the manuscript copies so often that my eyes ache,' &c.

Concerning this great work, Mr. Thomason thus speaks :—

'The slip of paper inserted in one of your letters, concerning an observation of Dr. —'s on Martyn's nicety of style, surprised me much. It is not like the judgment of a scholar and a critic. Would not the Professor be ashamed of a false concord or bad idiom in addressing the University? How can we be too attentive to these proprieties? How can we hope that any translation of the Scriptures shall survive the lapse of ages, unless the style be carefully attended to? Bad style is like bad poetry, soon forgotten and despised. *Accuracy and elegance* combine to form a standard which is itself a great means of preserving languages from decay. Martyn is justified by experience. He has in his Hindostanee translation of the New Testament, finished a work which will last; for it is a model of elegant writing as well as of faithful translation. It is so faithful as to represent with scrupulous accuracy the whole meaning, yet not so elegant but that any one acquainted with the language, can read it with ease.'

To return to the subject of schools before making any further observations on Mr. Martyn's ministration

among the natives. One fruit of his prayers and result of his prudence, above alluded to, was the successful introduction into his schools, very shortly after the sermon on the Mount; and on the 21st of September he had the exquisite joy of hearing the poor heathen boys reading the words of the Preacher, "A wise man's heart deviseth both time and judgment." It was in this spirit of patient and dependent wisdom, that Mr. Martyn had acted respecting the schools, and it was the same rare temper of mind which prevailed on him to abstain for a while from preaching to the natives publicly. Again and again did he burn to begin his ministry in Patna; but again and again did he feel deeply the importance of not being precipitate. It was not, however, without much difficulty that he checked the ardour of his zeal.

Connected with Mr. Martyn's labours in India the name of Sabat is but too well known by his rejection of that faith which he then appeared to profess in sincerity and truth. In him Mr. Martyn confidently trusted that he had found a Christian brother, nor were these hopes respecting Sabat's religious character more sanguine than both in reason and charity he might fairly have entertained. Of his abilities a most favourable report had been made by Dr. Kerr of Madras, who represented him as a man of good family in Arabia; as having been employed as an expounder of Mahomedan law at Masulipitam; and as being well skilled in the literature of his country. With respect to his belief of Christianity, although Mr. Martyn soon discovered in him an unsubdued Arab spirit, and witnessed with pain many defections from that temper and conduct which he himself so eminently exemplified, yet he could not but believe all things and hope all things, even while he continued to suffer much from him, and for a length of time with unparalleled forbearance and kindness. How could he allow himself to cherish any doubt, when he beheld the tears he shed in prayer, and listened to the confessions he made of his

pee, which I shall attend to, as I may kill two birds with one stone. There is some force in what you say about our refusing to go on these expeditions. It did not occur to me before. I have had Europe letters, one from Godfrey, another from Col. Sandys. Godfrey mentions his removal from Wellington to London, Hensman's marriage, his visit to Dr. Buchanan, Cecil, &c. Cecil is dying, full of love and humility. Col. S. gives a delightful account of my former acquaintances in Cornwall—old and young are turning to the Lord. His accounts have filled me with wonder and joy. England will take the lead in bringing on the Millennium. His mother (80 years old) whom I and every body else thought incorrigible, has voluntarily given up her cards and gaiety in order to live with her pious son, and she now says she was never so happy in her life. Lydia Grenfell's brother, a most amiable man, and one of my prime favourites at school, is become a truly converted man. Though he is a merchant in London, he exerts himself like a minister, warning all around him to flee from the wrath to come. Her mother also, once so hostile, contemplates the change in her children with satisfaction, and observes, 'Of what use are worldly riches without the Gospel in the heart?' The old Mr. Hitchens, whose two sons are evangelical ministers, lately died, having a good hope that he was received at the eleventh hour. He sent for his sons, confessed his own ignorance, formality, coldness, and indifference to the ministerial office. Thus the Redeemer goes on conquering and to conquer. The old man was one of the wise men of this world, a great astronomer: nothing afforded him so much amusement as to ridicule his sons, and he used to distort and exaggerate their Calvinistic opinions in such a way, that one would have thought that he wished to be the reputed father of two lunatics. His elder brother was brought to the truth a short time ago by the piety of his children also. When will the Spirit thus poured out on England be vouchsafed to India. Let us never

cease to expect it, pray for it, talk and write about it. I have sent home to Godfrey a sharp rebuke, for not having so much as mentioned the subject in his whole letter. Sabat and myself have had many quarrels this week also, but good has come of it I think. Last evening he went to visit a Christian of Aleppo, and found a Christian Turk of Constantinople, but this man must be a Greek I suppose, for I never heard of a Turk converted to Christianity. What he heard seemed to rouse him, for he came back full of desire to get on in his glorious work. Mr. Brown has sent me a letter from Mahommed Rasheed, a Calcutta Moonshee, containing his opinion of Sabat's work. It appears to me almost scurrilous, insomuch that I have not yet dared to show it to Sabat. Accompanying it came fifteen chapters in Persian by the hand of the same genius. Such stuff as I never saw from the pen of a Hindoo Kaith. This he has sent as a model for Sabat. Mr. Brown has been strangely perverted by Mr. Harrington (whose Moonshee this luminary is) if he really wishes that Sabat should alter his work to make it more like Mahommed Rasheed's, Sabat is going to Lucknow again. It will be high triumph to him to be able to exhibit the Hindoostanee's learned production to the literati there. But I shall not give it him till he goes. It would turn his head and our work would stop. We hope to finish the revisal of the Romans in Arabic to-day. Yesterday at sunrise I preached to the dragoons: at 10 at head-quarters; several ladies were present, and but few else. On account of the cold weather the sepoy guards are changed for Europeans, so that I had not half my men of the 53rd last night. The Padre Julio is come to Cawnpore, and will call I suppose to-day. My compliments to Major and Mrs. Maxwell and all enquiring friends. Do not cheat me of a letter on pretence of being on a journey, nor fear that I shall cheat you of your rupees, for I am overflowing.

‘Your’s, ever affectionately,

‘H. MARTYN.’

had only been sent from Cawnpore that day. I had a wretched night, and next morning on the way had much ado to keep myself from fainting. I called to the bearer for water, but there was none to be had; however the mercy of God saved me from a swoon which might have lasted to death. I reached the Jumna in the afternoon, and found the party encamped on the opposite side, not at Culpee, but a long way below. The ladies were the two eldest Miss Macans: very modest well-behaved young women. Mr. Richardson made two warm attempts to induce me to accept some Company's paper, said he should be much flattered, that he was not a poor man like the military. But I was inexorable: *Acti nescius*. By Mr. Cecil's advice after the example of Cato, I have learned to say *no*. Parson has subscribed 800 rupees to the Bible Society: you and I are to pay 100, according to Mr. Brown. I have given directions to have as much given for me as for you, and not more. I am now out of debt and overflowing with rupees. I wish I could meet with an opportunity of sending my debt to you. But I shall see you I hope face to face. If you cannot get to Meerut, I think it is better you should take half my duty than vegetate at Futtighur. On Sunday I preached to the dragoons, my chief and only congregation now. The artillery are encamped without the station: my audience at head quarters consists almost entirely of ladies. On Sunday evening I was requested to baptize Colonel Wood's daughter. I consented, but told them I would not stay to dinner. Mrs. L—— said there would be only themselves and one lady, so I promised to stay, as I had no company at home. But I bitterly repented, for soon a crowd of dragoon officers came in, and instead of having an opportunity of introducing conversation suitable to the Lord's day, I was obliged to sit and hear nothing but nonsense. I lifted up my heart in prayer continually, that this might not be sin to me, and I thought with longing affection of those dear societies of saints then engaged in prayer and praise. The General

is very rough and uncivil, not more so to me than to others ; but he treats us all like upper servants ; so, as I have nothing to gain by fawning, I keep aloof from him perhaps more than I ought. To-night there is a huge party at his house to meet Shumsheer Bahadoor, Nawab of Bundelcund : the particulars of this you may expect next week. Sabat is returned from Lucknow, but returns to spend his Christmas with Baillie. He brought testimonies from the true heir of the Persian throne and a variety of other Persians, that he is no learner, as the Bengalee Moonshee called him ; but what is better, he is willing to revise his work and make it more easy. I have had a long letter from Mr. Brown, but only about the translations. Have you got the Missionaries' Hindee Gospel ? I think it is tolerable. A letter from — says he is going to Agra. There are some serious reflections in his letter. After professions of friendship, he adds, What a heart-breaking thing if we should not meet in heaven, and then goes on to say that the danger is on *his* side, and says, that he prays constantly for grace to declare all God's truths, though indeed they are but one.

'Your's ever affectionately,
'H. MARTYN.'

'*March 5, 1810.*

'Yesterday I had to preach to two very small congregations—their aggregate not fifty—you I suppose were laid up, and P. perhaps on a sandbank, so that little was done in Hindostan Proper yesterday. But such fruitless days shall not continue much longer. If it cannot be said that the day has broke, let us hope that we see the morning star.

Let the glorious day approaching,
On their grossest darkness dawn ;
And the everlasting gospel,
Spread abroad thy glorious name !

'I was not very well pleased with my discourse to the

adventurous, and grand, and dashing spirit of the age. The good people of England would suppose, that a free school containing one thousand children, must be ten-fold more productive than one containing twenty-four children ; not considering the great importance of having one school-master, they would suppose the money almost wasted. School-masters must be made *here*, not in England. . . . The benefit would be distant, at present scarcely perceptible ; but future generations would arise and call us blessed.'

In the year 1813, thirteen of the most respectable people in Calcutta signed a public address to government, petitioning for the Bible in behalf of the Malays : to the surprise of all, this thing so novel and so bold, met with a favourable reply. The government acknowledged that the thing was laudable and important, and promised 10,000 rupees, about £1250. in aid of printing an edition of the Malay Bible. To be very earnest in spiritual subjects, and to wait patiently, is no common attainment, but how important !

The late Bishop Corrie was at this time stationed at Agra, having with him Abdul Messeh, as a fellow-labourer. Their united labours were not in vain in the Lord, but were stamped with marked success. They are thus alluded to by Mr. Thomason :—' Corrie wins all hearts, European as well as native. My soul greatly rejoiceth in the good that is doing there ; and when I look around and see the comparatively barren fields of Calcutta, I rejoice in the waving crops of Agra. You have scarcely an idea of his valuable qualities and fitness for Indian labour. He is patient, humble, mild, full of love, always alive to his work, apt to teach, ever on the look-out, richly furnished with argument, and exhortation, and holy unction. Having seen much of him lately, the remembrance of him is sweet. His very image does me good. Abdul is another Corrie, with a prodigious store of eloquence and practical wisdom.

' The appearance of a new Governor-General in India,

has a sensible effect on the still surface of an Indian life. Nor is the excitement it occasions of short continuance. It requires time, before things can subside into their ordinary quiescence. Like steel filings, when the magnet is introduced ; at such a moment all is motion and attraction ; multitudes are considering the aspect it may have on their own private interests ; others are inquiring—their affections being set on things above—what will be its bearing on questions of everlasting moment. In the middle of October, 1813, the Earl of Moira arrived at Fort William, and whilst the guns were announcing that he was in the midst of those he was to govern, a little band of Christians were met together, revolving in their minds whether a revocation of that cruel edict, which had expelled some missionaries, and driven others to the outskirts of the empire, might be obtained. A memorial was prepared and presented, but was ineffectual. Messrs. Nott and Hall were compelled to leave India, and whilst withdrawing from a land, to the good of which they had devoted their lives, they put forth a strong and memorable vindication of their character and principles. It was addressed to Sir Evan Nepean. He was their friend, and would have befriended them, but could not, of course, resist authority.’

Early in 1814, the new Governor-General, who often attended the Mission Church, notwithstanding its unfashionable character, and appointed its minister to perform stated service at Barrackpore, his own country residence, fixed upon him also to accompany him as chaplain in a journey of state through the provinces. He soon after commissioned him to draw up and submit to the government a plan for the education of the Indian population.

It was at this time, that intelligence was received of Dr. Middleton’s appointment to be the first Bishop of Calcutta. Mr. Thomason’s heart was cheered by the intelligence, and he gives us the effusions of that heart at the moment—‘His work on the Greek Article is of

the first order : surely the author of such a work will be an episcopal man in the true sense of the word.'

While on his tour up the country, this excellent man's feelings were deeply exercised about the moral and religious condition of the country through which he travelled. At almost every reach of the river, (the Ganges,) and at every resting-place at night, an increase of that compassionate zeal, which had led him before he left Calcutta to draw up and present to the Governor-General a plan for the instruction of the Hindoos, kindled afresh in his bosom. 'In ascending the Ganges,' he writes, 'and visiting the towns and villages on its banks, we see an enormous population of degraded beings with our eyes. The first place of importance was Murshedebād, the once famous metropolis of Bengal. It is an immense city, swarming with inhabitants, but exhibiting the sad marks of decayed greatness. Oh, it was an affecting sight to look around at the countless throngs, and observe moral, political, and religious degradation, without one symptom of improvement. We have annihilated the political importance of the natives, stripped them of their power, and laid them prostrate, without giving them anything in return. They possess neither learning, nor emulation, nor power. Every spring of action seems deadened. They wallow in the filth of a senseless and impure religion, without any prospect of deliverance. You can conceive of nothing more wretched than Hindoo towns and villages. Nothing like architecture, except in their temples, the streets are narrow and dirty, the house inexpressibly mean, teeming with inhabitants, whose appearance is disgusting in the extreme. At Benares, I ventured to visit the shrine held so sacred. It was an oppressive sight. The avenues to it are narrow, crowded with Brahmins and bulls ! the symbols of their impure religion meet the eye in every corner, and the horrid din of the Brahmins, and Faqeers, and bulls, and beggars, and bells, was too much to be endured. I hastened from the place, as from Pandemonium, and thanked God for

the Gospel. If I do not return to my charge with more of a missionary spirit, it will be my own fault. To behold such a mass of putrified matter, and not be concerned about providing the means of light, life, and health, is criminal in the extreme. Blessed be God for some little zeal! Had I obtained nothing more than an increased sense of the importance of ministerial labour, I should be richly repaid.'

Mr. Thomason very soon drew up a plan of education, and placed it in the hands of the Governor-General. Nothing could be more moderate or judicious. It was proposed, that schools be established in every part of India;—one principal one in every district for the instruction of natives in the English language and science; under which, and, subordinate to the master, village-schools, where the children should be instructed to read and write in their own language. The books to be selected from the moral and sacred writings of Christians, Mohammedans, and Hindoos. To supply the district schools, that there should be a training-school for masters in Calcutta, under the direction of a man of science and literature, the whole to be under a head, called, Agent for the superintendence of schools throughout India.

Concerning this plan, Lord Moira had expressed himself as highly pleased, and held out a hope that, with some modifications, it might be adopted; but good intentions suffer strange syncopes. Mysterious under-currents often carry away stately vessels from their bearings; so it was in this instance. Influential persons at Calcutta exerted an adverse power on the Governor-General's mind, and in vain did Mr. Thomason attempt to counteract this influence, and to revive first impressions. 'I endeavoured,' he says, 'in the most solemn manner to rouse the Governor to a sense of the importance of the crisis, and of the high duties to which he was called. I look around, and see a vast ocean, in the truest and most affecting sense of Homer's epithet, barren of all good.'

An example of Indian munificence exhibited at this time at Benares, formed a humiliating contrast to English supineness. 'Near a celebrated Hindoo tank,* I have seen —, the founder of Jac Narain's school; he met me there, and showed me the grounds, large and pleasantly situate. Close by the house was a path, along which 120,000 Hindoos passed every week to bathe. He says, he is now ready to pay the money for the school in the Company's paper, if the Governor will guarantee its application, and place it under the direction of the collector, to be paid regularly to the school-master.'

Leaving Benares, the Governor-General's camp proceeded onward towards Cawnpore, another immense military station. During this route, Mr. Thomason's zeal, fidelity, and boldness, as well as his wisdom and discretion, were signally put to the proof. He soon discovered to his sorrow that the Governor-General, when travelling, paid no regard to the Christian Sabbath. As his chaplain, therefore, he deemed it incumbent on him, to notice this violation of the day of rest; and, painful as the measure was, he hesitated not to adopt it. The reply was — *his dismissal from the camp*. "Thou hast not rejected me, but I have rejected thee." The rigour of this stern and haughty step was indeed tempered by an intimation from the Secretary, that an apology would be accepted. To apologize when in error was as congenial to Mr. Thomason's conciliating disposition, as it was to his religious principles; but, in this case, apology was out of the question; yet, as explanation was both admissible and proper, Mr. Thomason instantly wrote to the Governor-General, expressing his surprize at this order, but his readiness, at the same time, to comply with it, adding, that he felt as strongly as ever the importance of the subject, and thought it the duty of a minister of religion to explain his views when the honour of God and interests of religion were

* Pond.

concerned. The Governor-General was satisfied, and, for a time, respect was paid to the Sabbath-day.

At Karnaul, Mr. Thomason found some artillery-men, who knew and loved Corrie. These Christian soldiers came to his tent for prayer and religious instruction. Besides these, Mr. Thomason assembled a few native Christians, to whom he also ministered. Of these, he writes, 'My little Hindostanee Church has lately received an accession by one of the converts from Agra, a pious humble Christian; we are now a little company, and spend many happy hours together over the Scriptures. With these beloved fellow-travellers I am often solaced, amidst the sickening frivolities of the camp. Since we left Hindostan, Sunday has not been observed as a day of rest. Yet the Governor halts, to get ready for a tiger-hunt. The kingdoms of this world will have their own pursuits and enjoyments; they are not those of the kingdom of Christ. The experience I have had of this will, I trust, be useful to me, and certainly intercourse with native schools and *daily* Hindostanee preaching, have contributed much to enlarge my heart towards the perishing heathen. Corrie's fatherly attention to his flock was truly lovely.'

On the 6th of March, 1818, Mr. Thomason completed the least pleasing part of his journey, and again embarked on a vessel at Cawnpore, to return to Calcutta. The following are his reflections while floating down the mighty Ganges:—'To have once taken the tour of the Bengal provinces will be of great advantage in future operations; but there is nothing to tempt a second visit. To a feeling heart the prospect of desolation is most distressing. The country affords much to gratify a naturalist, and an antiquarian; but the pursuits of such persons require time and leisure. We only passed through and saw the immense plains of Hindostan in all their nakedness, the dire effects of those contentions, which for centuries have depopulated the country, and covered its face with ruins. The ruins of Delhi are of surprizing extent, reaching sixteen miles or more

—a sickening sight ! Ah, it made us sad to go through the awful scene of desolation. Mosques, temples, houses, all in ruins ; piles of stones, broken pillars, domes, crumbling walls, covered the place. The imperial city presents nothing but the palace to give an idea of its greatness, and only appears grand from the magnificent wall with which it is surrounded, which still retains its beauty, being built of hard stone. Within is poverty and departed grandeur—all is going to decay. The famous hall of audience remains built of marble, richly inlaid with stones sufficiently beautiful to realize all our expectations, &c. &c.—all gave an appearance of wretchedness one could not behold without a sigh.’

Hurdwar is another interesting spot in the annals of Christian missions. It is a pass in the northern frontier mountains, through which the Ganges, in a few insignificant streams, flows into the plains of Hindoostan. At this place an annual fair is held, which is resorted to by Hindoos, to the amount of near a million, for ablution in the sacred stream. The spot is romantic and beautiful ; the Ganges rolling in between the mountains and flowing onward in a course of near 1400 miles. Here Mr. Thomason spent a short time. Christmas day is thus briefly noticed, ‘For the first time I believe the death of Christ was commemorated at this celebrated spot—the throne of Satan. Who knows what rapid progress may be made by the gospel which appears now flowing like the Ganges at Hurdwar, but may perhaps ere long fill the earth with gladness.’

At this period a war with Nipal broke out, and it was earnestly hoped that a way would be opened for the introduction of the gospel among those sturdy mountaineers ; but it was not so. No sooner was the sword of war sheathed in its scabbard than the door for the entrance of the gospel was closed. It was a part of the stipulations of peace that no British subject should be allowed to set foot within the boundaries of its territories. Several attempts were made by myself, but in vain, and on one occasion my native catechist was seized and kept

in durance for some time, on occasion of a large fair annually held near to the Honourable Company's territory.

His account of it is as follows:—

‘On reaching the Nipal, I was seized by the soldiery. The Jammadar (commander) put me under a guard and threatened my life, upon which I opened my New Testament and read, “I am also a man under authority, my Lord and Master is the Almighty God and Saviour of the world. No man hath sent me hither. My guru (spiritual guide) forbade me and told me you would seize me. I am come in the name of God, an ambassador of the Lord of armies. My commission is from him, and my message to you. You threaten to take away my life. In the name of God and his Son Jesus Christ, I offer you life eternal. And as though God did beseech you by me, I pray you in Christ's stead be ye reconciled to God. Repent and believe the gospel, and do not so wickedly.” All cried out, “He is a good man. He brings good tidings. He is not a man of war, but of peace. Let us do him no harm, but send him away, we dare not let him proceed, &c.” The door is thus far still shut, they however frequently come down into the plains to the company's boundaries to trade, when opportunities of intercourse and giving the scriptures, &c., which have been translated into their language, occur. On one occasion, about a dozen Pundits and some of their courtiers, resided with me on the most friendly terms, and were entertained for a month. Every day intercourse was thus afforded and embraced of making known the gospel to them; and on leaving, each received and took away with him a copy of the New Testament.’

It was at this period that Dr. Middleton, the first bishop of India, arrived, to the rejoicing of the hearts of many. Mr. Thomason thus notices this auspicious event,—‘In the midst of war and distraction, here is a man of peace come among us for works of peace. Even in troublous times our Jerusalem may be built. All the accounts have been favourable. He has commenced

vice is about forty ; and that of native Christians, who attend worship in Hindoostanee, about *seventy or eighty*. The number of both congregations has been gradually and regularly increasing, and testifies to the diligence and devotedness of Mr. Bowley, and of the blessing attending his labours. I conversed with ten Hindoos, who appear to be fully convinced of the truth of Christianity, though not yet prepared to encounter the consequences of an open confession of Christ. Some of them even join Mr. Bowley occasionally in prayers. One of them on being asked what he considered the great peculiarity of the Christian religion, answered, that in every other religion *works* were made a condition of justification, but that in Christianity, only faith in Christ is required,—while wonderful to say, it produces more holiness than any other system. The whole congregation almost were in tears during an address in which Mr. ——— set before them the Saviour's sufferings, and during the communion the greater number appeared deeply affected, and all of them exceedingly serious and attentive.'

A convenient spot of ground for the erection of a church having been fixed on, Mr. Turnbull, the proprietor, on being requested to dispose of it, generously offered it as a gift for the purpose intended ; and the Marquis of Hastings was pleased to aid the collection by the very liberal donation of £100. The church having been commenced, various reasons urging the measure—the Rev. Mr. Greenwood, was appointed to minister to the European congregation ; leaving Mr. Bowley wholly at liberty for ministering to the natives, &c. Mr. Greenwood arrived at Chunar, Jan. 13, 1819.

In the month of July 1818, a Hindoo Brahman and a Mohammedan Munshee (teacher or scribe) were baptized. After divine service and address by Mr. Bowley, they both came forward. The Brahman then addressed the hearers : ' Behold ! I declare before all, and let Hindoos and Mussulmans pay attention to my words. I have been on pilgrimage to Jugga-nauth—to Dwaka-

nauth—to Badri-nauth, and to other places of pilgrimage—but, behold ! in all my travels, I found not the true way of salvation, till I came to this place, and heard the gospel, which by God's grace, I am convinced is the only way to happiness ; and I truly believe and declare before Hindoos and Mahomedans, that if they do not embrace the gospel, the wrath of God will abide upon them, and they shall be cast into hell.' On saying this, he drew out his brahminical thread, and broke it asunder before the people, saying, ' Behold here—the sign of my delusion,' and then delivered it to Mr. Corrie.

After him Muni Alli, the munshee, thus addressed the people : ' Attend, brethren, and hearken unto me ! I was a Mussalman, and had spent much of my time in the company of learned men of the same profession. I have studied the meaning of the Koran, and I have paid adoration to the tombs of *Pirs* (spiritual guides.) In those days, whenever I saw a Christian, my spirit was stirred up within me to slay him ; but on hearing the holy gospel, light has sprung up in my mind, which has increased ; and I have been more confirmed in this faith since I saw the Pentateuch and Psalms. To receive Christian baptism I have come from Delhi. My mind has moreover been strengthened and established by the instructions which I have received from the Rev. Mr. Corrie ; and now, before all my brethren present, I embrace this true way of salvation.' After this Mr. Corrie delivered a discourse on Matt. xxviii. 19. and then baptized the two candidates, the Brahmin by the name of *Kewil Massih*, (only Christ) and the Mussulman by that of *Munif Massih* (eminent in Christ.)

Mr. Bowley continued his wise and zealous efforts, assisted by Nicholas, one of the natives educated by the Rev. D. Corrie. The place of divine worship was usually crowded on Sundays by native Christians, and the heathen were occasionally drawn to attend and listen to the words of eternal life, among whom some instances of saving conversion occurred. In addition

pany, and celebrated for Hindoo superstition, is the city of Allahabad. There is a Baptist missionary here, and also one or two American missionaries, but no grand attack has ever been made upon the strong-holds of idolatry by which millions of inhabitants are enslaved. The Church Missionary and Propagation Societies have wholly overlooked it, though next to Benares in importance. The Rev. Mr. Crawford, formerly chaplain at the station, established a school, and daily preached in the native language, while residing there, and the Rev. Mr. Bowley of Chunar, for many years has visited it on its annual festivals, when thousands of pilgrims throng the city and its environs.

Cawnpore is the next large civil and military station. It has generally three or four European and native regiments in cantonments, except when required for active service. Here the Propagation Society has one missionary. Schools have been established, a Christian Translation Society formed, and a few books and tracts have been translated and put into circulation, &c.*

* *Christian Translation Society for Upper India*, in connection with the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, instituted at Cawnpore, Feb. 4, 1837. President—the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Calcutta. Board—Major General Oglander, William Mair, Esq. C. S. the Rev. R. P. Brooke, B.A. (Ex-off.) the Rev. M. J. Jennings, M.A. [Ex-off.] the Rev. J. J. Carshore, A.B. Treasurer—James Wemyss, Esq. C.S. Secretary and Superintendent of Translations—The Rev. J. J. Carshore. A.B. Corresponding Secretary of Calcutta—The Rev. J. T. Pratt, M. A. Corresponding Secretary at Lucknow—Capt. James Paton.

Report—The season for the publication of a report of their proceedings, and the exhibition of a statement of their receipts and disbursements having arrived, the board of Management of the 'Christian Translation Society for Upper India,' in connection with the 'Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,' feel pleasure in presenting the same to the Donors and Subscribers to the Society.

The works which have been undertaken and completed by the Society's translators, are Persian, Oordoo, Sanscrit, and Hindoo Versions of Bishop Porteus's 'Summary of the Principal Evidences for the truth and divine origin of the Christian Revelation,' and an Oordoo translation of the 'Sinner's Friend;' and those which are being prepared, are Oordoo, Sanscrit, and Hindoo Versions of the 'Concise History of our Lord Jesus Christ,' and an Oordoo Translation of

But there is no preaching missionary to the heathen population ; zealous chaplains have at times done what they could in superintending and otherwise contributing to the support of schools, &c. and perhaps more than any other station aided the Church Missionary funds without receiving aught in return. Among the schools there is an infant and an orphan establishment,* under the management of a Committee.

Bishop Taylor's 'Moral Demonstration, or a Conjugation of Probabilities proving that the religion of Jesus Christ is from God.' After the completion of the works in hand, the board intend to have that portion of Archdeacon Paley's Evidences, in which the authenticity of the historical books of the New Testament is proved, and Bishop Wilson's 'Knowledge and Practice of Christianity,' rendered into the Persian, Oordoo and Hindooee languages.

* *Cawnpore Native Female Orphan Asylum.* We have seen the First Report of this Institution, and have been much interested by its details. It gives us sincere pleasure to witness every endeavour made to ameliorate the condition of the Female Natives of this country, to raise them to their proper level in the scale of intelligent beings, and to see them above all delivered from their spiritual bondage, and included in the blessed number of those "whom the truth makes free." We wish that all success may attend the efforts of the Committee in their present undertaking, and that it may receive the blessing of Him, "in whom there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female."

The Report informs us that 'On the 10th of July 1834, a Committee of Ladies assembled at Cawnpore, to consider how the proceeds of a contemplated fancy sale might be most charitably appropriated. The perishing state of a number of children rendered orphans by a grievous famine then prevailing in the provinces west of the Jumna, most forcibly arrested their notice, and awakened their sympathy. They resolved therefore, to devote the proceeds of the sale to the relief of these little sufferers ; and to render their charitable intentions permanent, they resolved also to put forth the plan of an asylum, and to appeal to a generous public for support before they commenced an experiment which involved so much responsibility. The answer to their appeal was most noble, exceeding their most sanguine hopes ; and accordingly about the 30th of October, a mistress was provided, and the doors of the asylum thrown open for the reception of the children. In the original plan it was proposed to lodge the children for the present in the Rev. Edward White's compound, and they are now there : when however funds and ground for a site are obtained, the proposed scheme of raising a suitable building will be carried into execution.'

All the children are orphans, and with the exception of one, are natives of Bundelkand. Several of them were rescued from the most atrocious barbarity.

Massih (catechist) as usual, resides on my compound. I think him sincere, faithful, and diligent. He still acts as my clerk among my native flock, and instructs the catechumens. One of these men is in a very interesting state, and I hope ere long to have it in my power to communicate his story, when his name shall be enrolled among the other converts. The converted naick, (corporal) Matthew Prabu Din, is still with us, he is a steady, pious, and consistent Christian. The young professor, Jacob Jai-phul, has absented himself, and we know nothing of him. Munif too is said to have returned to his brother, and of course to his former profession, (Mahommedanism) though I have no particulars.'

Anund Musseeh was the other catechist. The history of his early conversion to Christianity, and subsequent exemplary life, are well known to the readers of the Church Missionary Society's publications. Mr. Fisher writes on this occasion,—

"On a visit of Anund to Delhi, he heard that a number of strangers from several villages of the west were assembled together, nobody knew why, near the imperial city, and were busily employed in friendly conversation, and in reading some books in their possession, which had induced them to renounce their caste, to bind themselves to love and associate with one another, and to lead a strict and holy life. He instantly set off to their place of rendezvous, and found about 500 people, men, women, and children, seated under the shade of the trees, and employed in reading and conversation. On accosting an aged man among them, the following conversation passed :—

" 'Who are all this people, and whence come they ?'
'We are poor, and lowly, and we read and love this book.' 'What is that book ?' 'The book of God.'
'Let me look at it ?'

"It was the Gospel. Many copies were possessed by the party, some were printed and others written by themselves from the printed copies. Anund pointed to

the name of Jesus, and asked, 'Who is that?' 'That is God. He gave us this book.' 'Where did you obtain it?' 'An angel from heaven gave it to us at Hardwar fair.' 'An angel!' 'Yes, to us he was God's angel: but he was a man, a learned pundit.' 'These books,' said Anund, 'contain the religion of the European *sahibs*, (gentry.) It is their book, and they printed it in our language for our use.' 'No, no,' replied the aged man, 'that cannot be, for they eat flesh.' 'Jesus Christ,' said Anund, 'teaches that it does not signify what a man eats and drinks. Eating is nothing in God's sight. "Every creature of God is good," &c. "Not that which proceedeth out of the mouth," &c. The kingdom of God is not in meat," &c. "That is true, but how can it be the Europeans' book, when we believe that it is God's gift to us." 'He sent it to us at Hardwar.' 'No! God sent it long ago to the Sahibs, and they have translated it and given it to us.'

'These Testaments were circulated at *Hardwar*, by Mr. Chamberlain, a Baptist missionary, five or six years before, and fell into the hands of several persons residing in different, but neighbouring villages. A public reader seems to have been selected in each of them; great interest was excited; they determined to separate from the rest of the Hindoos, and to establish themselves a distinct sect; and as their numbers daily and rapidly increased, the idea was at last suggested of convoking a public meeting of all their congenial associates, to ascertain how many accepted this new doctrine. The large grove of trees near *Delhi*, seemed a convenient spot; and this interesting group was assembled for this very purpose when *Anund's* visit took place. He afterwards revisited them at their respective villages, and his instructions were most gratefully received.'

The naick before alluded to was the first convert to Christianity from among the soldiery of India.

The following account of him is from Mr. Fisher's own hand, and has never I believe been published in England.

A BRIEF AND SUMMARY NARRATIVE OF THE CONVERSION OF MATTHEW PRABU DIN NAICK.

1837.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

There is nothing in my humble opinion more remarkable than the present tone of public feeling in India upon the subject of evangelizing the Natives of the land, when compared with what I well remember it to have been two and three and twenty years ago. On my first arrival in this country, I was astonished, as I believe all strangers usually are under similar circumstances, to behold the reality, the living demonstration before my eyes, of the degraded state to which ignorance and superstition can and do reduce the human mind and morals. Most of us indeed have read awful, heart-rending, accounts of the state of the unevangelized portions of the world, and perhaps we have with some difficulty persuaded ourselves to believe them; imagining that such accounts must be partial and exaggerated. But when such men as Dr. Claudius Buchanan and Henry Martyn published their testimony to what their eyes had seen and their ears had heard—(most minutely and eloquently described by the former of these two distinguished characters in his Christian researches)—it was impossible to withhold our implicit credence. I did myself believe! I read and inquired into many interesting particulars, and ‘the Groans of India’* induced in my heart corresponding feelings of pity! I was deeply impressed. The melancholy records came over my soul with affecting power. It was as if I had “lifted up mine eyes to behold” the dark visions of Ezekiel unfolding the abominations which were so provoking to the Lord, or (as the angel said unto the prophet,) “*greater* abominations than these” in the chambers of imagery, and which brought down at last

* *The Groans of India*. I allude to a small Tract published, I believe, by the late Rev. Mr. Thomason, and which I read in England.

the execution of the curse of God on apostate Jerusalem. People at home would hardly believe what we may see, almost every day, at our very doors, "every form of creeping things and of abominable beasts and all the idols (of the house of Israel) pourtrayed upon the walls round about"—"the places wherein the nations which we possess, serve their Gods under every green tree." It so happened in the providence of God that Buchanan himself was frequently one of my home congregation, and I was therefore privileged to see much of him, and hear affecting confirmation of the authenticity of the accounts published by him from his own lips. I readily believed in such authority, and yielded to the anxiety, which our frequent conversations induced, to visit this land of darkness, and to lend a helping hand (God enabling me so to do) to rescue from spiritual bondage and death these unhappy people. And now after visiting and settling in the land, I am able to speak that I have known, and testify that which I have seen.

Amongst the wonderful things which, on my arrival, first challenged my observation and amazement, I cannot forbear to mention *one* which I certainly was quite unprepared to behold. Of course I saw quite enough of the cruelty and the blood.* "The dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty," and I heard more than enough of the abominations, and the filth, and the disgusting habits of the people; but I was not prepared to hear of educated and polished Christian gentlemen manifesting the most perfect indifference to the scenes around them, nay, even adverse to all attempts to bring about a change; and, apparently

* Soon after my arrival, there happened to be one of the Hindoo processions marching through the streets of Calcutta. A Devotee was at their head, crowned with garlands of flowers, with an iron spike thrust through his tongue, and an iron rod sharpened to a point, with which the poor wretch had pierced the fleshy part of his arm, and as he danced along, he kept sawing the iron backwards and forwards, the blood spouting from the wound profusely. I did not follow the crowd, but doubtless he must have soon fainted or probably died.

intimidated themselves, actually striving to intimidate others from all interference with the degrading system which prevailed. And yet so it was. There was either this unaccountable indifference and apathy in beholding the whole scene, or there was the ominous warning, 'You had better not *meddle with the prejudices of the natives*;' and if you cannot join in the cry, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians," at least be silent! or you 'will be called in question for the uproar,' that your interference will excite. There was evidently a feeling prevailing even on the minds of some of the enlightened rulers in the land, that a more dangerous means for alienating the affections of the people, could scarcely be imagined, or one more likely to shake the stability of our rule, than to attempt to interfere with their religion, however wisely it might be done. A man, therefore, will be considered an enemy to Cæsar who shall dare to think or act for himself in this matter. So beware! I thank God heartily that those days are gone by, and, we trust, never to return. The childish and unreasonable apprehensions which were once allowed to enfeeble and nearly paralyse every effort to do good are now at rest. It is no longer considered perilous, and the dark forebodings are scarcely of any weight. We now may go fearlessly forward and proclaim our Eternal King, and yet not implicate our characters as enemies to the powers that be. We no longer apprehend, to use the strong language of Buchanan, 'that the poor infatuated wretches who come to lay their bones within the precincts of Juggernaut, will mutiny and take away our dominion. The consequence is far more likely to be, that the blessing of Him that was ready to perish, will rest upon us.' I believe that nearly all candid and liberal men are now convinced that they might as successfully attempt to restrain the flow of some mighty river to the ocean, or to arrest the spreading beams of the rising sun in the diffusion of day-light, as to stop the progress of evangelical truth through the world. The leaven has begun to work. The healing waters

have begun to flow, already "are the waters risen, waters to swim in, a river that cannot be passed over." (Ezek. xlvii). Who shall say to the sun, "stand thou still"—who shall say to the sea, "hitherto only shall they come, and here shall thy proud waves be stayed."

I offer these few remarks in order to introduce to your notice and that of your readers a narrative of some interest, from the peculiar circumstances attending it, and which is not, I believe, very generally known, as I think it ought to be. At the time of its occurrence (now above seventeen years ago) there were still found some few alarmists who anticipated that rebellion, and civil war, and misery, were likely to follow forthwith all efforts to convert the people; and when a *high caste* Sepahee had embraced the Christian faith, the consequent discomfiture of our armies and the overthrow of the British power in India, were prophetically foretold, as the sure consequences of so 'singular and unprecedented a circumstance.' The following narrative will illustrate the nature of these apprehensions, and I should hope will also tend to show how visionary and unfounded they are.

'In the month of December 1819, I was much surprised by the receipt of a letter, of which the following is an extract, from the Bishop of Calcutta, Dr. Middleton :

'REV. AND DEAR SIR,

'You are, by this time, probably aware, that some measure of public attention has been drawn to the subject of the conversion of a Brahmin, belonging to one of the regiments quartered at your station. It may be of importance that I should be fully acquainted with the particulars, and I cannot so properly apply to any one in such a case as to yourself. I shall therefore be glad to receive your statement as early as you can conveniently send it to me, &c.

'I am, Rev. & dear Sir,

'Yours very faithfully,

T. F. CALCUTTA.'

'29th Nov. 1819.'

‘ A few days after the receipt of this letter, which I acknowledge, surprised me not a little, as I had never (previous to the Bishop’s letter) heard a syllable upon the subject, I received through the Brigade Major (1st) a copy of a letter which had been written to Colonel Nicol (then the Adjutant General), in order that the same should be reported to the Marquis of Hastings, as Commander-in-Chief, and also (2d) copy of the orders which were issued in consequence of the Major’s report, to the following effect :—

No. 1.

To the Adjutant General of the Army.

‘ May I request you will do me the honour to report to his excellency the Commander in Chief, a most singular and unprecedented circumstance that has lately occurred in the corps under my command, viz. the conversion of a Naick named Prabhu Din Pundah, from the Hindoo to the Christian religion. He was baptized by the Rev. Mr. F——, on the evening of the 20th, and that without my privity or consent. As the 1st battalion of the 25th regiment N. I. is composed chiefly of the highest caste of Brahmins, this event has filled them with the greatest consternation ; and in its consequences may prove injurious to the corps, particularly in its recruiting department, the prejudices of the natives being such, that men of high caste will be averse to enter it, under a supposition that means were to be employed to convert them. The Naick Prabhu Din Pundah, was a high caste Brahmin, and much esteemed in the corps until the late event.

‘ I have the honour, &c.

‘ M. B. Comg. 1st Bat. 25th N. I.’

With the above was received No. 2.

To the Adjutant General of the Army.

‘ Sir,—I am directed by the most noble the Governor General in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your

letter of the 12th instant, transmitting a copy of a letter from, &c., respecting the conversion of Prabhu Din, a high caste Brahmin and Naick in that corps, to the Christian religion, and his baptism by the Rev. Mr. F——, a regular military chaplain on this establishment, without any previous information having been afforded to the battalion.

‘2. With reference to the feeling of consternation which Major B—— describes to have been created by this occurrence among the men under his command, and to the very dangerous consequences which might be experienced were this procedure of Mr. F——’s supposed to be coupled with the official duties of the situation to which he has been appointed by government, his lordship in council is disposed to view the matter in the most serious light, and feels extremely anxious to be satisfied in regard to the means which have been used to induce the individual in question to embrace the Christian faith.

‘3. In order that all the circumstances of the case may be brought fully to the knowledge of the government, the Governor General in Council has desired me to request that His Excellency the Commander in Chief will cause a special committee to be convened at Meerut to investigate and report most fully upon all the circumstances referred to in Major B——’s letter, which may tend to throw light either upon the origin or progress of the conversion of Prabhu Din Pundah to Christianity.

‘4. His lordship in council considers it also necessary that the committee should be particularly instructed to enquire and report whether any and what measures have been adopted in that cantonment, which may in any way be considered to interfere with the religious prejudices of the native soldiery, in view to their conversion by the employment of native or other emissaries, in frequenting the lines of corps, or residing for such purposes within the limits of the military cantonments.

‘5. In conclusion I am instructed to request that his

excellency the Commander in Chief will direct the removal of Naick Pradhu Din Pundah from the 1st battalion of the 25th N. I. causing a promotion to be made in his room, his pay and allowances to be drawn for by the Brigade Major at M—, where he is to remain until the pleasure of government, after the proceedings of the committee, now ordered, shall be made known on this singular and unprecedented case.

‘ I am, &c.

‘ W. C.

(True copy.)

Sec. to Gov. Mil. Dept.

The following is my reply to the bishop :—

‘ MY LORD,—Having had the honour to receive your lordship’s communication respecting the conversion and subsequent baptism of Matthew Prabhu Din, Naick, in the 25th regiment N. I., I beg leave, in cheerful compliance with your lordship’s request for full information upon the subject, to state the following particulars :— Could I however have imagined it possible that Major B. had written so intemperate a record of this open transaction, I must have felt it an incumbent duty to address your lordship long ago, but as that gentleman assured me, in reply to a note of mine, written in consequence of your lordship’s letter—thus ‘ he had merely “related the fact” in compliance with what he felt to be his duty,’ and gave me no intimation of his having proffered any alarming prophetic conjectures of his own, I could not anticipate consequences of an unpleasant nature, and therefore did not think it necessary to trouble you upon the subject.

‘ I believe your lordship is already fully aware, that since my residence at M—, I have had abundant occasion to observe a strong spirit of enquiry prevalent amongst many of the natives as to the nature of the Christian religion. Unsolicited, and I may say, wholly unsought on my part (as my time was fully occupied by my large European flock) numbers both of Mahomedans and Hindoos frequently visit my house for the purpose of

begging, if they cannot afford to purchase, our Scriptures in the native languages ; or to enquire into the meaning of the different passages which awaken their curiosity or excite their feelings. The interesting result has been a certain degree of intimacy between us, and, in some instances, the ultimate conversion, baptism and consistent Christian deportment of those who have joined themselves to our Church. One of these men, whose uprightness and abilities qualify him for the office, is employed by me to conduct this little Church under my own eye and direction, which he does with zeal and considerable talent. His name is Anund Musseeh.* During his absence on occasional missionary labour amongst the Saadhs (to whom he is particularly acceptable) my Moonshee Mooneef,† who is also one of our Christian congregation, takes his place.

‘Part of the daily occupations of this little party of native converts is to read the Scriptures in their own apartments, which is an old convenient upper room over one of the gateways of the city of M——. Of course this room is free of access to every voluntary visitor. Their congregation of hearers varies much in numerical strength, sometimes six or seven, old and young men, at other times twice the number. Among the occasional visitors at this place, the soldier in question frequently made his appearance, and ultimately requested to be introduced to me. His visits to me, in consequence, were very frequent, and the decided change of his opinions, and, I trust, of his heart, marked and satisfactory. I found he had been long labouring under deep conviction of the worthlessness and wickedness of his heathen

* Lately ordained a Church Missionary by the present Lord Bishop.

† Mooneef was baptised by Mr. Corrie. I grieve to say that some years after this he awfully apostatized. Yet he was a man of *apparently* great heart-experience as well as head-knowledge, if an opinion could have been grounded upon his remarkable capability to talk well and scripturally. But “ wine and strong drink ” were his ruin. He was one of the *innumerable* instances I have met with of the almost hopeless professions of penitence. Mooneef died miserably, soon after his leaving me, a *drunkard*.

ignorance and idolatry, even for nine years. He kept these thoughts much to himself, preferring to wait "the convenient opportunity," but the convictions of his heart became stronger and stronger until he went with his regiment to the Isle of France. There he used to watch for opportunities to steal into the Christian Church, and comfort himself by thinking to worship the Christian's God in spirit, though ignorant of the meaning of the language, or of the terms of devotion which were in use, and could only comfort his sorrowful heart with the conscious reflection that '*the Christian's God* knew his heart.' He earnestly longed to meet with some one who should be competent to instruct him what he must do to be saved. Yet many depressing fears of consequences, both of a temporal and spiritual nature, frequently discouraged him. At last, he made up his mind, that if ever opportunity should offer itself to speak to a Christian clergyman, he would unfold the state of his soul, let the consequences be what they might. He gave a very affecting account of his state of mind during the remainder of his stay at the Mauritius, and in his voyage back to Calcutta. A furlough being granted to the soldiers who had distinguished themselves, *Pradu Din* went to his native village, and after spending a little time with his relations there, he was not contented merely to display the medal upon his breast, but unfolded his whole mind and his fixed resolution to embrace Christianity. At first they endeavoured to dissuade him, but finding him immovable, desisted, and parted from him with *many* tears. His mother exclaiming, as he left her, 'You have changed your faith and lost your caste, and say you have found the true God. Beware, you *never change again!*' He rejoined his regiment at Cawnpore, which happened almost immediately to be moved to the station of M——. His first inquiry was, 'Who is the chaplain, and does he teach my brethren?' He was told of the little upper chamber where the native Christians met together, and went to see them. 'I felt at

once,' said he, 'when I saw the nature of their employment, and heard their words, I said, *Jesus Christ has heard my prayer ! God's mercy has brought me here.*' His frequent visits were soon observed by the Brahmins of his corps, and when they became apprised of his intention to become a Christian, they manifested extreme sorrow to him, and strove to convince him of what they thought his folly, and by kind remonstrances to shake his purpose. They enlarged on the perilous consequences which would surely follow, the irremediable loss of his high and honourable caste, the rejection of all intercourse in future with his numerous and dear friends, *the certain displeasure of the Government*, who would assuredly disgrace and dismiss him for becoming a Christian ; thus that he would lose everything dear to him in life, and finally life itself, for who would give him *khana peena*.^{*} His reply was uniformly the same : 'Jesus Christ will be my friend, He is the friend of all who trust him, and as to caste, there is none so high as the Christian caste. It is more honourable than all, for Christians are the people of the true God, He is their *Father*. My becoming a Christian cannot make me a bad soldier, and I see no reason to believe that Government will cast me off any more than any other of the non-commissioned officers, for instance the serjeant-major, or the quarter-master serjeant, or the drummers, all of whom are Christians : and why should they punish me unless I commit some fault ?'

The Brahmins now finding him so resolved, tried to shake his stedfastness by the offer of money, and proposed to subscribe and settle upon him a monthly sum of twenty rupees for his life. This he instantly rejected, saying, that he believed Jesus Christ would provide for him much better than they could, and with this advantage, that it would be *for ever*. Finding him resolute, they endeavoured to vilify his character, represented him to be a drunkard and a glutton, nay, at last, insisted upon

* Maintenance.

it that he was insane. Some of these scandals appear to have been believed by some of his superiors, for a regimental court of inquiry was instituted into his conduct; the result of which however was, that the most satisfactory evidence was brought forward, not only that he had always conducted himself remarkably well, but that he was a particularly smart, intelligent, and active soldier.

‘He was baptized by me at his own request (which I beg your Lordship will have the goodness particularly to observe) on the 10th of October, just before his departure on some regimental duty, and there was an end of the matter. The Brahmin soldiers ceased to trouble him, and the only symptom of “consternation,” which the Major in the plenitude of his zeal so pathetically laments, is that the Naick cooks and eats his meals by himself, barred from admission within the magic circle by which the Brahmin surrounds his Choola. In every other immaterial respect he remains just as he was before, to use the military phrase, “a steady soldier and a good man.” The only mark upon him is that he reads his Bible, and prays to the one eternal God, through Jesus Christ his Saviour.

‘I trust this plain unvarnished statement to your Lordship will place the matter in its proper light, and be a sufficient proof that the intemperate and irritating representation which it has been thought proper to transmit for the information of Government, was not warranted by the circumstances of the case, if only it had been properly understood.

‘I have the honour to be, &c.’

To this letter I received a brief reply from the Bishop, thanking me for my prompt compliance with his wish. ‘I have read your narrative,’ said he, ‘with intense interest, and think it exceedingly affecting. You must however prepare yourself for the official inquiry which will be instituted, but I cannot see that you can have any thing to apprehend from this faithful and prudent

discharge of your duty as an ordained minister of God, or as a chaplain upon the establishment,' &c.

A Court of Inquiry was called at Meerut on the 6th of January, 1820, in obedience to the orders of government, and the following contains the copy of the proceedings as recorded by the President :—

'Proceedings of a special Court of Inquiry, held by order of Sir G. Martindell, commanding the 2nd division of the field army, to inquire into all the circumstances attending the conversion of Prabhu Din Naick, of the 1st battalion 25th regiment, to the Christian faith.

'*President.*—Captain S. Arden, 1st battalion, 27th regiment.

'*Members.*—Captain H. D. Showers, Major of the Brigade ; Captain W. Reding, 1st battalion, 27th regiment.

'Prabhu Din being called into court is desired to state what were his motives for embracing the Christian faith, to which he replies :

'I frequently observed the conduct of Christians. In various particulars, their superiority and strictness of behaviour and love of truth were visible, and it induced me to inquire into their religion, and believing it to be true, I embraced it.

'Q. How long is it since you made your first inquiries into the Christian faith ?

'A. About nine years since, when I went as a volunteer to the Isle of France. My attention was particularly attracted by the regular observance of the Sabbath, and by seeing the Europeans going to church to worship. I from thence determined to make diligent inquiry when I could. But neither on my return to Calcutta or afterwards at Cawnpore did I find what I thought a convenient opportunity, or leisure, for I had heavy duty to do ; so it is only since I came to Meerut that I have had leisure or means of information.

'Q. When you arrived at Meerut did you yourself first make inquiries, or did any body come to you in the lines ?

had received upon the subject, and requested that he would be particular in his inquiries and let me know the result. He called on me in the evening, and said that he had not a doubt, but that the Naick had been converted. Upon this I wrote to Captain Showers, the Brigade Major, on the subject, who called on me the following morning, and said, that the Naick had been baptized on the 20th, by the Rev. Mr. F——.

‘Shortly after this the Adjutant called for orders, and then stated to me that the men of the corps appeared very much dissatisfied at the Naick’s conduct. I therefore thought it advisable to order such of the native officers as were Hindoos, as also Lieutenant Smith, the interpreter, to attend me at the Adjutant’s quarters at ten o’clock the following morning, when their apparent consternation at the conversion of the Naick, induced me to add the second paragraph in my letter to the Adjutant General of the army, respecting this singular occurrence.

Signed

‘M. B.

‘*Comg. 1st Bat. 27th Reg.*

‘The proceedings of the Court here closed.

Signed

‘S. ARDEN, Capt.

‘*President.*

‘For the result of this inquiry I somewhat anxiously waited, expecting that Prabu Din would be of course restored to his forfeited rank and situation in his corps, but it was deemed advisable to abide by the directions already given respecting him, and he has remained at Meerut ever since, living on his pay. Better than all, he continues to live consistently with his profession, a sincere and faithful Christian believer.

‘When Sir Edward Paget was Commander in Chief, and was passing on his tour of inspection through Meerut, I stated in conversation all the above particulars to him. He expressed a most lively interest in the situation and circumstances of such a man, and authorized Colonel Nicol to propose to Matthew Prabhu

Din to appoint him to a higher rank in some one or other of the local corps. Matthew expressed himself very grateful for such condescension, but said with great emotion, although respectfully, I cannot accept this ; I have done nothing that should involve dismissal from my own corps, in which I am now a degraded man. Send me back to my regiment, and I shall have the disgrace washed out, and I will thankfully go back. As this request however could not be complied with (though I know not why) Matthew remained on his pension pay. I ought not to withhold one circumstance, which I think highly creditable to his character. At the commencement of the Burmese war, Matthew Prabhu Din requested me to communicate to Major General Sir Thomas Reynell his wish to be allowed to volunteer and join any of the native corps that were going on the service. 'I have long eaten their salt, said he, and men are wanted, I am ready !' Sir Thomas highly appreciated his military feeling, and admired the man. He is a fine tall athletic soldier, and his spirit is of a noble order, but it seems there were some insurmountable difficulties in the way, and he was courteously told it could not be. I am not acquainted with the reasons.

'Some few years too after these events his old corps marched through Meerut. The non-commissioned officers and men of his company came to visit Matthew and greeted him with *much cordiality* and kindness. Many of them exclaimed, 'Why don't you come back to us, what harm have we done? Our officers, the Sahab log, are Christians. Our Serjeant Major and Quarter Master Serjeant are Christians. The drummers also are Christians, why cannot you remain?' What could he reply? 'It is the Company's will and pleasure.'

'I believe this feeling now widely prevails, for I have learned from authority which I cannot doubt, that many Sipahcees have expressed their conviction that however our British law of toleration warrants the free

exercise of his own faith to the Mahomedan or to the Hindoo, yet that in embracing Christianity, the doom of Matthew Prabhu Din most inevitably awaits them. They would be dismissed from their regiment as unfit to be employed, and disqualified for any association with their equals and for the confidence of their superiors. The Rev. Anund Mussih assured me that several Sipahs had expressly told him, 'We are heartily disposed to embrace the truth, but these *consequences* are too painful for us to endure.'

'Surely however we may venture to indulge the hope that such consequences will *not* follow,—but that we may yet live to see the day, when a similar reply may be made respecting the *Christian* Sipahs, as once was given to the late Gen. H—— respecting the pious soldiers of H. M.'s 14th Foot. 'What sort of fellows are these,' said the General to the officer who then commanded them, 'for whom the chaplain is pleading to build them a private reading-room—he calls them "*his men*?"' 'The best men,' said the Major, 'in the whole regiment. I only wish they were all "*his men*."' 'Then,' exclaimed the General, 'they shall have their room.'

'H. F.'

The Rev. R. Richards now labours perseveringly at this station. The congregation assembling at the mission chapel built by the late Begum Samru,* consists of

* In 1833 the *Begum Samru*, now well known in England, made the munificent bequest of 150,000 rupees in trust to the Bishop and Archdeacon of Calcutta, for missionary and charitable purposes. The money was invested in Government paper for the purposes specified. Some discussion arose as to the most desirable mode of employing the interest so as best to meet the wishes of the donor, it being deemed necessary that the trust should not be left vague and uncertain as to its object. The preparation and employment of Christian missionaries suggested itself as the most desirable course, and in the correspondence which ensued it was finally determined that the interest of one lac of rupees should be appropriated to this direct object, and fifty thousand in other works of charity amongst the poor and debtors.

150 persons, of whom 50 are communicants. Mr. Richards writes on the present state of the native mind in reference to Christianity. 'I have obtained so much favour in the eyes of the natives of Meerut, that they now invite me to their most private apartments, and willingly listen, with their wives, to the preaching of the word of God. There is indeed a wonderful change in this respect, &c.' And again, subsequently, 'I am happy to say that the people hear the word without disputing, and often come to the chapel during divine service, listening with much attention; they likewise begin to testify respect for the Christians, and on the other hand exhibit coldness towards their Brahmins, all which circumstances are of an encouraging character.

AGRA is another scene of missionary labour, already mentioned in connection with Bishop Corrie and Abul Meeseh. No missionary was placed here, notwithstanding the happy commencement of Bishop Corrie's labours, until the year 1837, when the Rev. J. J. Moore, was appointed by the Church Missionary Society's corresponding committee, to proceed thither to endeavour to restore that which had been lost, and to strengthen that which might remain, but was ready to die; and to extend the knowledge of the Redeemer throughout that immense, and now more than ever before, important field of labour. Agra having become a seat of government for the upper provinces, to which, therefore, persons from all parts would be called on business with the board.

The following is an extract from a letter written by the late Bishop Corrie, when living at Agra as chaplain: To provide for some sincere souls, who have not otherwise the means of subsistence, we have taken forty bigahs of ground, &c. Three Faquers, among others, are now employed to keep and dress it, no small proof of their sincerity.

'Last week a Byragi came, who resided twelve years in a jungle, surrounded part of the time with fire, ex-

pecting his god (deota) would appear to him. He is a sensible man, and appears to be sincere. Do not suspect, I beg you, that your letters can possibly give me trouble, I receive pleasure and profit from them, and pray that my soul may be kept alive to the success of the gospel. We must not only sow the seed, but harrow it in by prayer to Him who alone can give an increase. I am thirsting for missionary news, to refresh my spirit, drooping, alas, in the midst of scenes which should kindle to missionary exertion ! O how does familiarity with the vices of the heathen weaken the feeling of their enormity !'

What a savour of a true minister of Christ has this holy man left behind him ; and what a bright example to successors. Wherever Corrie lived, there his very name is as ointment poured forth ; and every one who came after him could not but feel in some measure its influence.

In the year 1831, Dr. Parish having been appointed to the chaplaincy, established, together with other influential persons, what was designated, the ' Agra Relief Society.' Each successive year, its operations and its funds increased. In the years 1838, and 9, the time of the great famine—this society was found to be foremost in affording an asylum to the poor half-starved wandering destitutes out of the duab, &c. The effects of the famine were not sensibly felt till the month of September, for while in August, only 105 beggars had been relieved, the number in September amounted to 18,814. From that period the numbers daily increased. In December the total number of persons relieved, was upwards of 20,000 ; in January, 31,210 ; from this period, the influx was beyond all calculation ; the numbers who crowded to the established alms-houses daily amounted to upwards of 2000.

The Rev. Mr. Chambers was at this time the military chaplain, and the Rev. J. J. Moore, missionary. Subscriptions were solicited from other stations, and sermons preached, &c. to enable the Society if possible to meet

the existing distress : and when this means failed to be sufficient, the application was successfully made to the government. The Bishop and his clergy in Calcutta were also written to, begging their assistance. The manner in which these appeals were met, both by the government and private individuals, reflect honour on the Christian name and British rule in India. Within a few weeks in Calcutta alone, one lakh, and one thousand rupees, were subscribed and collected, and forwarded to the scene of misery and death, and every station throughout the province, nobly responded to the pressing and urgent call. Among the various means of relief, an hospital was established, which together with other relief-institutions were under the direction of a Committee. The general superintendence was given by the Rev. Mr. Moore, and especially that of the hospital, in which thousands* died and were buried in masses within and without its precincts.

During the time of this unexampled distress, an orphan refuge was established, into which all who were willing were received. Their parents having died, they were of course houseless and homeless, and in every way destitute. The Church Missionary Society were applied to after a time by the Committee, to undertake the responsibility of the charge, and to supply the necessary superintendence, &c. the Committee promising to use all possible effort to procure subscriptions for its support. To this they readily acceded, and 200 boys and 150 girls were retained at Agra, and the surplus distributed among various other stations. The institution at Agra was placed under the Catechist, David Batavia, who took a lively interest at once in this new sphere of missionary labour, and heartily devoted himself to the various department of occupation.

The Report of the Orphan Asylum in 1840, is too interesting to be omitted here.

* Nearly twenty thousand.

the vernacular dialects. Some, however, of the more intelligent, in addition to these studies, are instructed in English ; and it is the intention of the Committee to afford those a superior education, in order to qualify them to become eventually teachers and instructors among their countrymen. Considering their age, and the time they have been under instruction, many can read with tolerable fluency, and in general, discover great aptitude for learning.

‘To give variety to the young mind, as well as not to burthen the teachers with a large number of scholars at the same time ; those children that read in the morning, work in the afternoon, and *vice versa*, so that both branches of the establishment are constantly employed. This arrangement insures a greater efficiency of supervision ; and it has this great and decided advantage, that learning ceases to be considered irksome by the children, nor is the young mind wearied and eventually stunted, by being the whole day employed in study.

‘The female department which owes its origin to the benevolence of the ladies of the Station, is at present under the kind superintendence of the lady of the Rev. Mr. Hoernle ; and although it is not to be expected that it should exhibit the same variety of occupation as that of the male branch, yet rescued as these children have been from misery and infamy, they cannot but possess a peculiar interest.

‘As the male orphans are brought up in the hope of being useful and Christian members of the native community, so the female orphans are trained with the view of being hereafter suitable wives for native Christians ; our primary object therefore, is to rear them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and accustom them to habits of industry. They are taught fancy needle work, and spend a portion of the day in acquiring the rudiments of learning ; many can already read Hindi and Urdu, and have attained to some skill in needle work. They spin cotton and wool, the latter is transferred to the orphan boys’ work-shops, where it is manufactured into

carpets. They make their own clothes, grind their own corn, dress their own food, and perform the other domestic offices for themselves.

‘The total expenditure during the last seven months for the maintenance of the male department alone, amounted to 2120 rupees 11 as. 8 pie. or a monthly average of about 302 rupees—ranging from 1 rupee 14 annas to 2 rupees each child. This includes food, clothing, medical charges, and instruction, with other incidental expenses.

‘The work-shop establishment though at present expensive, will eventually be scarcely an item of expenditure, as the value of the work done will meet the actual cost for instruction; indeed, as the children advance in skill at their respective trades, it is naturally to be expected, that there will always be an increasing surplus for the benefit of the institution.

‘The cost of establishment amounts to 853 rupees, 11 as. 8 pie—the value of work done, to 495 rupees, 11 as. 10 pie. But this is not a fair criterion of the earnings of the orphans; for owing to the recent formation of the institution and its removal to Secundra, the labour of the boys has been available in sundry repairs requisite, and in the various departments of the work-shop, so that a considerable saving has thus been effected. Independent of these, the purchase of tools, instruments, &c. for the different departments of work, constituted at first a heavy item of expenditure.

‘The expenses of the female department for the same period, amount to 2298 rupees, 12 as. 8 pie, or a monthly average of expenditure of about 328 rupees,—which will exhibit the cost for the maintenance of each child to be about 2 rupees 6 as. per mensem. This includes—besides food, clothing, and medical charges—the salary of the school-mistress, as well as other incidental items of expense.

‘Since the establishment of the asylum, four girls have been married out of the institution. Two to youths educated in the male department, and two to

native Christians—who are at present located at Secundra.

‘The Committee are happy to be able to state that since the removal of the institution to Secundra, there has been little or no mortality, and the general health of the children has greatly improved. Numbers have been transferred from the Relief Asylum during the famine, in a state of inanition and exhaustion that can scarcely be described. Of these, a large proportion died; and those who survived, did not fully regain their health and strength till months after; added to this, small-pox and ophthalmia raged among the children; and indeed, for nearly the first year and a half, the Orphan Asylum might be considered merely an hospital of diseased and famished children, and little could be done in the way of instruction or organizing any settled system.

‘Mr. Moore having, agreeably to the request of the Committee, carried their plans into effect, and organized a system of instruction, intimated his intention of resuming his ministerial duties in the city, and requested to be relieved from the labour of constant and daily superintendence. The Committee accordingly were necessitated to seek for a successor, and were happy in being able to avail themselves of the services of Mr. J. G. Driberg; who had already, under the Rev. Mr. Moore rendered valuable assistance to the institution, and who was perfectly conversant with the details of management, and with Mr. M.’s various plans, &c.

‘It remains to be stated that the institution has hitherto been mainly supported by the surplus famine funds, and that the balance at present in hand amounts only to 2700 rupees; whereas the monthly expenditure for 300 children, with superintendent’s salary, &c. exceeds 700 rupees.

‘This simple statement, the Committee conceive, will be sufficient to call forth the active benevolence of all friends to the orphan throughout India, and more especially the North Western Provinces.

' The Committee have confined themselves to a brief outline of facts. To any one interested in the progress of the institution and the system at work, a visit to Secundra would, they are persuaded, if practicable, prove highly gratifying. They who are precluded the animating pleasure of seeing with their own eyes these numerous orphans rescued from starvation and misery, and now overflowing with health and happiness, as in the best conducted boarding-schools in England, will however believe our assurances, and have their liveliest feelings of compassion excited. A much deeper interest must be raised for them, when we view them as drawn out of heathen darkness and vice, and likely by the blessing of God, to prove holy Christians themselves ; whilst they may be the effectual means of diffusing the blessedness of genuine and healthy Christianity among their countrymen.

' Some security for their continuing to be attended to, may be derived from their being under the control of the Local Missionary Association, which in fact constitutes the Committee of Management, and is immediately connected with the Church Missionary Society.'

The mission is at present occupied by the Reverends the missionaries Kearnsley, Pfander, Kreiss, assisted by catechists and schoolmasters, &c. The mission compound in the heart of the city comprises a church, two mission-houses, and the widows' almshouses. There are also schools in the city and surrounding villages. At the close of last year there were 122 orphan girls, and about 160 boys.*

The Rev. *Amund Massih* also labours in connection with this mission, principally in itinerating excursions in the neighbourhood. An interesting account of his conversion, &c., may hereafter be published in a separate volume, which it is proposed to publish, of eminent converts from Hindoo and Mahomedanism.

GARUKHPORE is another of the Church Missionary

* See Missionary Record for May, 1842.

stations. It is situated about 500 miles N.W. of Calcutta, and about 160 miles N.E. of Benares. It was first occupied by the society in 1823. Its present establishment comprises a church, parsonage, and seminary at Garukhpore, and a native Christian colony, about three miles from the station, on the borders of a forest nearly twenty-four miles deep, and girding the station on the north of the river Raptée, and to a considerable distance south. At this settlement there is also a church, called 'the Church in the Wilderness,' and an orphan asylum. The Reverends J. P. Menge and Charles Wendnagel, from whom recent accounts have been received, are at present the Society's missionaries. An account of its origin and progress may be seen in the publications of the Church Missionary Society.

The last station taken up by the Church Missionary Society is, AGRA-PARAH. This mission arose out of the Orphan Refuge established by Mrs. Wilson. This mission, being of modern origin, is so well known to the public as to render any detailed account unnecessary. A reference to the Society's publications will supply any information that can be desired.

In closing this sketch, the author begs to signify that should it be favourably received he has much more interesting matter to communicate relative to various Christian establishments, and especially relative to the operations of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge. With reference to other bodies of Christians, it is thought sufficient to make a short reference to them as taking an active and zealous part in every good word and work, and in many instances as having been foremost in the field. It has been his privilege to have occasionally met them in conference, and to know sufficient of them and their labours to love them for their works' sake, and to bid them God speed.

SOCIETIES FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL AND
THE PROMOTION OF CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE, RE-
SUMED.

Bishop Middleton's arrival in Calcutta infused new life into these two oldest societies connected with the Church of England. Previous to leaving England the bishop attended a meeting of the 'Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge,' which had testified their confidence and esteem by placing at his disposal a credit of £1000 for the promotion of their views and designs in India. His lordship therefore as soon as practicable after his arrival, applied himself to the formation of a diocesan committee. A short account of the Society was printed and circulated by him, and other necessary steps were taken for the establishment of the committee, which was consequently formed in May, 1815, and commenced its proceedings under the best possible auspices. In a letter to Archdeacon Barnes of Bombay his lordship thus notices this auspicious event, 'We have had our primary meeting, our members are already thirty-six, and many more may be expected to drop in. The point at which I aim is to proceed quietly ; by the blessing of Providence the society may become a powerful engine of good.' And subsequently in the same month, 'Here we are proceeding admirably well, we make no parade, and we publish nothing, our immediate objects are European and half-castes ; and we shall avoid everything which can reasonably excite apprehension. On the 1st of June of the same year his report is equally encouraging, 'We are remitting to London £650, two-thirds of which will be returned in books, one-third being the property of the parent society. We have a prodigious field before us. Our true policy is to avoid anything which can alarm the most timid ; I do not mean among the natives, *for nothing that we could do would alarm them.*' *

* On another occasion the Bishop writes, 'They,' the natives, 'certainly display no bigotry, and betray no alarm with regard to the

It was by measures of this prudent unostentatious character that the bishop hoped to give life to the profession of Christianity in India, and he certainly had the gratification of seeing his views seconded to a considerable extent, so that in February 1816, he was able to announce to a correspondent in England, that members of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge, were then to be found all over India, from Delhi to Cape Comorin.

In 1818 his lordship thought himself fully justified in attempting something for the mental and moral improvement of the natives, experience having shown that it was safe and practicable; in reference to which he writes, 'The Church Missionary Society is labouring in this department, and as I have reason to believe, with good success, and experience upon a pretty large scale has afforded us the information required, and the change of sentiment among our European residents has been at least proportionate. At a time when all classes of Christians among us, and some of the natives themselves, are coming forward in the work of education. I could no longer consider it consistent with the honour of the church in this country, or of our Church Society, to remain passive in a scene of such activity.

'At a numerous meeting, holden for the occasion, it was resolved therefore, That schools be established for the purpose of diffusing useful knowledge among the inhabitants of the territory, subject to the presidency of Bengal, &c.'

With reference to this movement the Rev. Mr. Thomason writes—'To the joy of many, our Bishop has come

diffusion of our religion.' An instance in point to which the Bishop refers, was on occasion of the Establishment of the Hindoo College. The Superintendent, a European, to avoid the appearance of seeking to make converts, tore out or pasted over all passages relating to Christianity contained in the books that had been adopted. Upon which the managers, who were all Hindoos of wealth and consequence, desired him not to do so again; two of the managers avowed that they had read the Bible, and had found nothing in it which could do their children harm.

forward on behalf of the heathen. The public was moved—a school committee formed—a noble fund raised for school purposes,—what could the heart desire more? We are not straitened for means, or for patronage; we want only instruments. As a member of the school-committee I have felt it my duty to rise to the great occasion, and have laid my shoulders to the work, and have for some time past been engaged in studying the Bengalee language, organizing schools, examining classes, looking out for teachers, &c.’

The operations of the Committee in pursuance of these plans, were commenced at a place called *Rassipugli*, where, and in the vicinity of *Kali-Ghant*, four schools were immediately established. A second circle of schools was contemplated for Cassipore, thus comprising two of the most populous districts in the vicinity of Calcutta. They were patronized with surprising liberality; between £1400 and £1500 were contributed towards their support in donations, besides £500 in annual subscriptions.

The Bishop some months after the establishment of these schools, writes—‘I am convinced that great changes are taking place. Our schools are giving rise to a great deal of discussion. The people seem very much disposed to send their children, notwithstanding they perceive the tendency of the knowledge acquired to make them Christians. They suppose *‘it must be.’*

In 1822, in a letter bearing date the 7th of January, the Bishop writes—

‘I have this morning been presiding at a Christian Knowledge Committee, to settle the last year’s Report. All very harmonious and comfortable. We are printing the parables, miracles and discourses of our Saviour in three different native characters, 2000 copies of each, 18,000 in the whole! The cost will be 3000 rupees, to be taken out of the Society’s fund. I am also printing at the Society’s cost “*Sellon’s Abridgment*” in two native characters.’

These were prepared and translated by the late Bishop

qu岸 for persons properly qualified to fill the several Professorships proposed by the Bishop, and on the terms recommended by his Lordship, namely, 400 sicca rupees per month to the senior Professor, or £600 per annum ; and that of his colleague or colleagues 300 sicca rupees each per month, or £450 per annum.

While the Society in England were thus furthering the Bishop's views, his Lordship was engaged in looking out for a suitable spot on which to erect this anticipated Eastern University. Its locality, advantages, &c. are thus stated by the Bishop, in a letter addressed to the Propagation Society, in the November following his proposition.

'I have now the pleasure to acquaint you for the information of the Society, that through the favour and distinguished liberality of his Excellency the Marquis of Hastings, I have obtained from the supreme Government, a piece of land as a site, which in reference to the purpose contemplated, is not surpassed by any other whatever. It will contain I believe about twenty acres. Its distance from Calcutta is hardly three miles, and yet by being on the opposite side of the river, which is much wider than the Thames at Westminster, but without any bridge, the College will afford to the students all the privacy and retirement which can be desired. At the same time it will be a conspicuous object, presenting itself to the notice of our countrymen, on their first approach to this capital. I have every reason to hope that the situation will be found healthy ; the College grounds being open to the south, whence the wind blows constantly, from the month of March to September or October. Close adjoining to the westward is the Hon. Company's Botanic Garden, and to its beautiful and shady walks near the river, the Professors will no doubt have free access, with the further advantage in case of sudden illness, of medical aid close at hand, in the superintendent of the garden. Nor is it perhaps to be altogether disregarded in an establishment of this sort, that the scenery is such as to gratify and soothe the mind.'

The Bishop's heart was so fully set upon this noble

object, that he never lost sight of it for a day—all his correspondence breathes an air of holy fervour about it. In his eye it was to be the ark of the Christian cause in India. 'If,' he writes, 'it shall please God unity to spare me till the work is complete, and the machine effectually set in motion, I shall seem to have attained my *euthanasia*. At this moment I would not exchange my duties for those of any individual in my profession. The college alone is quite sufficient to engage much higher powers than I can boast of, and to reward much greater exertions than I can make. My mind in truth cannot contemplate any thing greater or more worthy of a Bishop of the Church of England, than the foundation and organization of such an Institution.' To another correspondent—'The college is a project which has been in my mind for the last three years, and is all that I can contribute towards an *university* near this capital, and with the blessing of God, (to which I seem to myself to ascribe more and more the longer I live,) it may bid fair to be the foundation of what in future ages may become the University of Calcutta. Can you forgive the feelings of a founder if I tell you that the other day, as I listened to the woodman's axe employed in clearing the ground, I actually began to muse upon what might hereafter be the studies and the glories of the place.'

In December 1820, all the preparatory measures for the building were fully matured. The whole plan and arrangement of the intended edifice were the work of the Bishop himself. The style adopted was the pure, ancient, collegiate Gothic. The building was to occupy three sides of a quadrangle, each 150 feet in length. It was to comprise within itself all the usual requisites of a college; a hall—a chapel—and a library; together with additional advantages of a press. It was to present its open front to the river; the chapel and hall forming the centre, the houses of the principal and professors, the lecture-rooms and the apartments for students, being distributed along the wings.

Of the College, designed to stand on this favoured spot, it was the Bishop's wish that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts should become the proprietors. The Bishop of Calcutta, for the time being, was to become the visitor. Its title was to be 'Bishop's Mission College.' It was founded originally for a Principal and two Professors, and for as many students as its funds should enable the Society to maintain during the period of study, and to provide for afterwards, in the situations of missionaries, schoolmasters, and catechists, at its various stations. These stations were to be under episcopal jurisdiction in all matters ecclesiastical or spiritual ; and in all other respects were to be responsible to the Bishop in his character of Visitor. As the object of the institution was expressly the propagation of the Gospel, no students were to be admitted who should not propose to devote themselves to that object. Its design was widely and charitably comprehensive, since it embraced all such portions of insular or continental Asia, as should, at any time, be under the protection or authority of Great Britain.

At length, all preliminary difficulties being surmounted, on the 15th of December 1820, the Bishop had the inexpressible delight of laying, with all due and impressive solemnity, the foundation-stone of this noble seminary. That day must have been among the brightest, perhaps the very brightest of his whole existence. He had lived to see the prosperous beginnings of a work, which had cost him many a laborious day, and many a sleepless night, but which had often made his pulse beat high with hope, and had given an excitement to his powers that kept them in vigorous and salutary action.

In the year 1821, in a letter addressed to the Rev. Charles Webb, the Bishop adverts with pleasure to the appointment of Mr. Mill to the office of Principal of the College: 'I am glad,' he says, 'that my principal professor (for the Principal must profess, and even teach), is a Fellow of Trinity, Mr. Mill, a man of great talent, I expect. He, and Mr. Alt, his colleague, of Pem-

broke, arrived soon after my departure. Mr. Alt is said to be eminent in Hebrew,' &c.

It is not necessary to detail minutely in this sketch the commencement and progress of the institution under the superintendence of the Bishops Middleton, Heber, and Turner, as the records are before the public, and, the writer would hope, familiar to all who feel any interest about the spread of the Gospel. A very important query presents itself to the mind, namely,—How far the objects proposed by the venerable bishop have been realized.

It is deeply to be lamented, that after a vast expenditure of money on buildings, principals, and professors, &c., scarcely anything of good has been accomplished. I say not this acrimoniously, but with the deepest and most heartfelt regret. I loved the institution—I watched its progress with more than common interest, and when it was proposed to have a Church Missionary seminary in Calcutta, I gave my opinion against it, fearing it might look like a rival institution; I loved Bishop's College, and I looked forward to the sending of my own sons *to graduate* there with intense pleasure.

1. But what has it done in instructing native youth, &c. in order to their becoming preachers, catechists, and schoolmasters, during a period of more than twenty years?

2. For the teaching of the elements of useful knowledge and the English language to Mussulmans and Hindoos, &c.

3. For translating the Scriptures, the Liturgy, and moral and religious tracts.

4. For the reception of English missionaries, &c.

Scarcely *anything* has been done in either of these departments. Not a portion of the Scriptures, or of the Liturgy, has been translated by any of the College Establishment, and now, nothing is being done but what had better be left undone. Sure I am, that if sainted spirits can weep, Bishop Middleton is now weeping in heaven over the idol of his heart.

Something, however, has been done in the way of translation, or rather original effort, in the year 1830. Dr. Mill published a work in parts, which he called *Christa Sangita*, or the Sacred History of our Lord Jesus Christ in Sanscrit verse.

The preface to the first edition of the first book, entitled, "Yeshú Utpatti ; or, the Origin of Jesus," commences thus :—

'To give to the historical truths of Christianity a dress borrowed from the metrical legends of the Hindoos, is no novel idea ; but the attempt to do this without violating, either in the facts or the spirit of the narrative, the chaste simplicity of scripture, may have greater pretensions to originality. Such is the present undertaking ; for which the plain style and easy versification of the standard Sanscrit mythological epics of Vyasa and Valmiki, afford far greater facilities than are presented by the vernacular muses of Southern India, in whose most meretricious forms the same sacred history has been before conveyed, but with singular adulteration, by the genius of the Jesuit Father Beschi.* The style of these mythological poems has been indeed before attempted by Christian imitators for a different purpose,—but one to which from Indian usage, it is equally well adapted, as the celebrated episode of the Mahábhárata, the Bhagavad Gita, may suffice to shew, that of conveying moral or metaphysical instruction in the form of dialogue. The attempt in this manner to restore the great truths of natural religion, which the Brahmanical system has obscured or depraved ; to refute by arguments drawn from themselves, the polytheistic and pantheistic systems, to which the vulgar and the sage are severally addicted, is a work strictly

* Cf. the great Tamil work of this extraordinary author, entitled *Vendikam*, or *The Unfading Garland*, recounting the early history of our Lord, whose description may be seen in the Preface to Mr. Babington's translation of the adventures of the Gooroo Paramarthan (a Hindoo attributed to the same author,) in Hough's Answer to the Abbe Duboulaye, and in Hinde's Journey to Southern India.

within the province of a Christian instructor ; and, if executed with as much of good faith as of spirit and ability, would have reflected undoubted honour on that celebrated Society from which the project originated. But when, as if to defeat the success of the design with all heathens of knowledge and integrity, we see the names of Narada, Jaimini, and other venerated teachers of Brahmanic theology, introduced as refuting and denouncing it, and the name of the most ancient and sacred of all Hindoo writings, prefixed as the real title of the composition (though the Vedic style is widely different from that of the Puranas in which these pretended Vedas are written) no skill in the execution can screen from censure the authors and abettors of a forgery equally disingenuous and imprudent. The work, of which the part containing the false Yajur-Veda in a loose French translation was printed at Yverdon in 1778, imposed on some even of real sagacity in Europe, where an eagerness to see genuine Vedas had before been strongly expressed by Mosheim and others. But strong suspicions of its genuineness had been excited, even before the discovery of the manuscripts of the original forgery, formerly belonging to the Jesuit's College at Pondicherry, which is the subject of Mr. Ellis's satisfactory dissertation in the fourteenth volume of the Asiatic Researches.

‘ The poem, of which the first book is here published, is as far from claiming kindred with the Brahmanical assumption of the last-mentioned composition, which it resembles in language, as with the Hindoo embellishments of the former, which it resembles in its subject ; but it has in one sense a more decided Indian original than either ; its first projector being neither Jesuit nor missionary, but an unconverted Gentile Pundit, Ramachandra Vidyabhushana of Burdwan. The curiosity of this Brahman had been sometime before excited by the perusal of the gospels of St. Matthew and St. John in his own vernacular Bengalee idiom. From this he was led, while at Bishop's College, to conceive the de-

sign of making in his own words, a Purana of this history, by a metrical translation of it into the sacred language of his tribe : and conceiving from a version of the Commandments and Creeds which I had sometime before executed in the same style of Sanscrit versification, that I would approve and support his undertaking, he brought the Introductory Canto, which he had composed from St. John's first chapter, with a request that I would assist him to continue it. The perusal of these verses (of which an account will be subjoined hereafter,) the ingenious production of one who yet frankly avowed himself a Hindoo in religion, was calculated to excite more surprise than pleasure, and yet more of hope than of any other feeling. I encouraged him in the strongest manner to persevere in the work he had commenced, though my voyage to England very soon after this time, in August 1828, precluded any active assistance on my part.'

On Dr. Mill's return to India, he found that the Pundit had not succeeded in the attempt :

'He evidently needed more to guide him to the spirit of the original narrative, than the versions in his possession supplied ; and I soon found, with his assistance, that some passages of the evangelists were capable, with no more departure from the literal construction, and with far less from their real style and manner, of such adaptation to the genuine Puranic stanza as was satisfactory to himself and other native scholars. From this time, agreeably to his first request, I took the direction of the work, not only in the selection and supply of the materials, but in their Sanscrit rendering also, using in this occasionally the aid of other Pundits beside Ramachandra. The approbation of Bishop Turner and other members of our College Syndicate being obtained to the undertaking, the work was pursued in the second and subsequent cantos on the plan which I will now more fully explain, which in respect of the citation of prophecies, &c. enlarged upon me as the work proceeded.

'The first mentioned canto, which differs from the

rest in being, with two very slight exceptions, the unaided production of Ramachandra ; opens with a question of a disciple to a Guru, or religious teacher, respecting the means of deliverance from the universal prevalence of sin. The question delivered in quasi-alcaic undecasyllabic measure entitled *Indra-vajra*, is answered by the instructor in the ordinary iambic tetrameter of the Puranas. He directs his inquirer to Christ the Son of God, as the only deliverer from the power of sin. The disciple inquiring who is Christ, and how he is thus identified with the eternal deity, is commanded by the Guru to hear the divinely-revealed account of this mystery. Then opening with the declaration, "In the beginning was the word," the sage describes with St. John, but more paraphrastically, the co-eternity and consubstantiality of the Divine Word with the Father, the eternal communication of all divine attributes to this only-begotten Son of God and Light of Light, in full and undivided perfection ; his participation in the creation of the universe, as the expressed intelligence, the power, and the wisdom of God. He concludes with stating that he, the true image of the invisible God, "without whom nothing was made, that was made," yet descended to reveal him afresh to his creatures lost by sin ; that this Divine Word became Man, that he might re-unite man to God. The actual history of this incarnation and how the true light shone uncomprehended in the darkness of his own world, he now proposes to inform the yet uninstructed disciple. And this announcement of the coming history concludes the singular composition of the Burdwan Pundit, entitled *Sabda-Avatra adhyaya*, or Canto of the Word's Incarnation, which consists of 22 disticha.

'The history opens in the second canto with the statement that in the reign of Augustus, Emperor of Rome, in a general peace of the world, fifty years from the commencement of the great Indian era of *Vicramaditya*, the angel Gabriel was commissioned to deliver the message of the incarnation to the blessed Virgin of

Nazareth in Galilee. The events are then told as in the first chapter of St. Luke from ver. 26—45, with no greater deviation from the words of the original than would be required for a prose translation in any Asiatic language.'

The hymn ver. 46—55 is given in another measure, but closely rendered. The third Canto recounts the circumstances of John's nativity. The fourth is entitled 'The Promise to the Fathers,' and is meant to explain the allusions made to the ancient patriarchs, prophets, &c., without some idea of whose history the gospel narrative must often be unintelligible. A sketch is accordingly given of the history of the chosen people of God, from the call of Abraham to the accession of David. The Canto concludes with the promise of God to David, 2 Samuel vii. 8—16, &c. In Canto fifth the disciple asks, 'how the conditional part of the remarkable promise just quoted was answered in the subsequent fortunes of David's offspring,' and is told that the unconditional part of the promise points to Christ, while according to the conditional part, David's royal descendants were punished with loss of empire, &c., for their transgressions. The history of Israel and Judah is then sketched, down to the birth of Christ, and 'a rapid but comprehensive description of the evils of Israel at this time, the alien rule, the extinction of prophecy, the corruption of traditional religion, and consequent depravation of manners, all leading the faithful people to desire earnestly the accomplishment of the long-deferred promises to their fathers, concludes this canto of ninety-two distichs, entitled *David Vansas*, or the stem of David.'

The sixth Canto, entitled *The Birth from a Virgin*, details the particulars connected with the birth of Jesus, and cites the prophecies in Isaiah vii. 14, Micah v. 2, and Isaiah ix. 1—7. The seventh relates the circumcision and presentation of Jesus in the temple, (giving also an explanation of these ordinances) and the homage paid by Simeon and Anna to the infant Lord.

This beginning of the glory which was to mark the second temple, and the interest which ALL NATIONS have in the promised Messiah, are then adverted to. The eighth Canto is entitled '*The rising of the Star to guide the nations*,' and ascends to the origin and fall of man, relating the promise that the seed of the woman would crush the serpent's head. The teacher then tells that this promise formed a ground of faith and obedience to a series of good men,—Noah (the true *Manu*) Melchisedek, Jethro, and Job, and was not utterly lost 'even when the tumultuous waves of error (the Mahá Máya of Indian Mythology) causing the reflection of innumerable false forms of the one true God, had covered the earth with idolatry and sin.' The ninth Canto records the flight of Jesus with his parents to Egypt, the tenth his return to Judea, and the changes in the rulers of that country. In the eleventh the teacher answers the queries of his pupil about the religious institutions of the Israelites and the Scriptures of the Old Testament, which are detailed with some grounds for crediting 'the integrity of these inspired writings.' The apocryphal books are also mentioned and distinguished from the canonical.

In Canto twelfth, the origin of the Sabbath is deduced from the Mosaic account of the creation, the Jewish festivals are described, and the history which concludes the second chapter of St. Luke respecting the visit of the Saviour to the temple when twelve years old, is related. In the thirteenth, the disciple enquiring whether, as the Jewish Scriptures are held sacred, the Jewish festivals are observed by Christians, is instructed as to the Christian Sabbath, and some of the other festivals of the Christian Church as the annunciation, nativity, Epiphany. The fourteenth and last Canto of the first book consists of a hymn to Christ, consisting of a eulogy of Thin, an ascription of praises to Thin, and a series of prayers of which the description cannot be here extracted.

This first part of the Christa Sangita, entitled Yeshu-

illusive notion of *diversity*,—a process avowedly and systematically distinguished from *active virtue*, and from the exercise of *charity of every kind*, (since all affections as implying diversity of person must be extirpated,) this person by the very act that raises him above idol-worship, sets himself equally above *all* worship : he is himself God, absorbed into that all-pervading essence of Deity which they call *Brahma* in the neuter gender. And why then, (say these sages themselves,) should he then worship that of all whose attributes, omniscience, omnipresence, &c. he is then essentially partaker? though that infinite essence, in its various and multifarious manifestations to *inferior* mortals that are still subject to the *illusion of diversity*, may be and is still, in proportion to that variety, a proper object of worship to *them*.

It were a wide field of speculation to trace the effect of this persuasion both on the minds of these professed sages themselves, and on the minds of the vulgar, who are all taught to believe and reverence, the system upon which this absorption and self-deification proceeds : particularly to point out its strict compatibility with the practice of the grossest and most complicated idolatry by the *latter*, and with its most complete encouragement, nay confirmation and establishment by the *former*. To do this thoroughly, would be to explain in a very great degree the whole mystery of iniquity connected with Hindoo worship. Certain it is, that the ΠΡΩΤΟΝ ΨΕΥΔΟΣ of *all* heathenism, but of this *gnostic heathenism most eminently and systematically*, is the confounding the creature with the Creator.

The following is in substance a conversation with a learned Brahmin in the course of my missionary excursions while in India, illustrative of the popular view of Hindooism as now held.

At the close of this most interesting day's labour, a young sharp-faced, keen-eyed looking Brahmin in the fore-front of an immense crowd, caught my eye while preaching. His appearance interested me greatly, and

as his eye caught mine, I exclaimed, 'No God—no God—the Hindoos have no God! They acknowledge no God—they live without God—they deny His existence.' Upon which I observed his interesting countenance change from long to short, and from the grave to the ridiculous. I added—'Alas, how sad! What a pitiable condition.' I here observed him anxious to speak; and he did speak as follows,—'How without God—what do you mean by without God?' I replied—'You acknowledge no God superior to and diverse from yourself. No knowledge of the only living and true God,—and therefore no fear—no love—no worship of God.' Hastily interrupting me, he said—'How wildly you talk.' I asked him if he could prove the Hindoo belief of a God supreme above, and distinct from, his creatures,—an object of worship, from the Veda.' After further observations made upon the doctrine of the Veda, he submitted, but observed that the *unilluminated* could not understand it, and spoke of the idolatrous system as *compatible* with its profession, when properly understood.

It may *prima facie*, seem difficult to reconcile the inculcation and actual practice of idolatry with the Pantheistic belief; but on a closer view of the subject, it will be seen to arise necessarily out of it, and is wholly and altogether compatible with it—that both in fact are ONE AND THE SAME *system of religious belief*.

We have only to conceive clearly that the doctrine of the Veda is simply this: 'That there is nothing existent in the universe *but* God,'—that this universe *is* God, (their *neuter* Brahma,) and that every other *supposed* agent, visible or invisible, is *illusive* in respect to its *apparent* diversity from God.'

'From Brahma,' says the Veda, 'springs a power capable of *division*—even as a wave from the ocean,' so that this refined intellectual system, so far from being incompatible with the popular idolatry of India, as frequently maintained, is the very *life and soul* of it,—for whilst they hold that all is *illusion*, they maintain,

A poor pigeon which had escaped from his confinement, continued for some time to hover round the ship, like the dove of Noah finding no rest for the sole of her foot, save the sea-girt citadel. Like her, O my soul, when thou dost madly forsake the shelter of thy Redeemer's bosom, may'st thou find no repose, till thou fleest thither again !

Bounding along the obedient surges,
Cheerily on her onward way,
Her course the gallant vessel urges,
Across the stormy gulf—Biscay !
In the sun the bright waves glisten—
Rising slow with measured swell ;
Hark—what sounds unwonted !—Listen,
Listen, 'tis the Sabbath-bell.

Hushed the tempest's wild commotion,
Winds and waves have ceased their war.
O'er the wide and sullen ocean
That shrill sound is heard afar.
And comes it as a sound of gladness
To thy tried spirit, wanderer, tell ?
Or rather does thy heart's deep sadness
Wake at that simple Sabbath-bell ?

It speaks of ties which duties sever,
Of heart so fondly knit to thee ;
Kind hands, kind looks, which wanderer, never
Thine hand shall grasp, thine eyes shall see.
It speaks of home and all its pleasures,
Of scenes where memory loves to dwell—
And bids thee count thy heart's best treasures,
Far, far away, that Sabbath-bell.

Listen again ! thy wounded spirit,
Shall soar from earth, and seek above,
That kingdom which the blest inherit,
The mansions of eternal love.
Earth and its lowly cares forsaking,
(Pursued too keenly, loved too well,)
To faith and hope thy soul awaking,
Thou hear'st with joy the Sabbath-bell.

D.

PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPE.

Extract of a Letter, giving an account of the providential escape of the Rev. H. F. from murderers, on the night of July 28th. 1816.

You will already have learnt from imperfect reports in the newspapers, my wonderful and providential deliverance out of the hands of a set of brutal murderous ruffians, who had undertaken, in the capacity of Dawk-bearers, to convey me from the first stage on my way to Saharunpore: I readily comply with your wish to know the particulars, which are indeed so decidedly a proof of an over-ruling and merciful interference of the mighty arm of God in my behalf, that I must at all times thankfully rejoice to call this providence to remembrance. Never can it be forgotten by me! Many of the circumstances which I now have it in my power to communicate have been brought to light by subsequent legal investigations; but as they will enable me to relate the whole affair in more regular detail, I shall not interrupt my story by any needless references to those authorities, any further than to premise that they were ample and satisfactory enough to connect the whole series of their cruel and blood-thirsty designs against me; but "the Lord was my helper:" I can only attribute it to Him that I live to relate the mercy.

I was solicited to go to Saharunpore for the purpose of uniting in marriage Mr. Grindall, the Judge and Magistrate there, and Miss Munn. The distance is about seventy miles, and not far from the Himalaya mountains, about thirty-six miles, which range in a north-westerly direction towards the regions of Tartary. It was particularly desirable to the parties that I should reach Saharunpore on the morning of the 29th July, which obliged me therefore to set off on Sunday night the 28th, after the sabbath services were finished. You

know they are rather laborious, particularly at this time of the year. In India the most scrupulous attention is paid to the necessity of selecting the cool hour of the early dawn for the morning Church, so as to get into the shelter of a house by eight o'clock, before the sun is too high. I have a second service in my own house at ten, when about sixty soldiers usually attend, with whom I am personally acquainted, and several of the humbler classes of society. My son Henry superintends the Hindoostanee service with Anund Mussee in the afternoon, and at night I am lecturing on the Gospel of St. John in the Church. I am, you may therefore conclude, somewhat weary when the day's work is done. After a cup of coffee I turned into my Palanquin, and soon composed myself to sleep. It was about ten o'clock. As I passed the hospital, about eight or ten of my soldiers (as I call them) were waiting to say once more farewell, and to commend me to God's gracious care. They drew my attention to the ill-looking set of bearers who were carrying me, and truly they were a most truculent villainous party, one man in particular, I could not help almost shuddering to look at. He was very tall, very black, with an enormous quantity of rough shaggy hair on his head and beard and breast, his grumbling voice when he spoke was scarcely human, resembling more the savage growl of a wild beast than any thing else. He also limped on his right leg, as he trotted on with his flaming Mussaul, and seemed particularly curious to pry into my Palanquin. I had no arms and was merely dressed in my night gown and trowsers. After a few parting words with the dear pious soldiers I closed the doors and was soon buried in sleep. I however heard the bearers talking and laughing with each other about some expected '*Tamasha*,' fun; and '*bukot uchha nuseeb*.' The fates favour us, i. e. we are in luck's way. There were ten bearers and two Mussaulchees. I was of course utterly unconscious how far I had travelled, when I was suddenly awakened by what appeared to

me to be a smart blow with a stick upon the roof of my Palkee, and which was instantly but very gently lowered to the ground. I threw open the slide and enquired what was the matter. The answer was a dreadful blow on the breast, with a heavy laden Lattee, (a solid bamboo, with iron rings round the butt end) which laid me upon my back forthwith, and the pannels of the slides were in a moment beaten in. As I endeavoured hastily to jump out to make the best defence I could, not liking to die in my nest, I distinguished the tall Mussaulchee standing with an uplifted sword, ready to make a cut at my head, and which happily for me I saw in time. As I sprang up from my left hand, I struck him with my right with all the strength I could muster, and he fell like a log, not however without inflicting with his falling sword a severe wound across the jaw-bone, which instantly gushed out a torrent of blood. Of course I concluded it was mortal, but in the anxiety and confusion of the moment, felt only that my desperate situation called for as desperate a defence. Yet the cowardly villains did not close upon me as I expected, but stood in a semicircle in front of me, gazing on their prostrate companion. He speedily got up however, and flourished his sword, and encouraged the men by his gestures to resume the attack. Several of them had lattees in their hands, with which they kept threatening me in the way in which the natives usually practice fencing, leaping forward and retreating and ejaculating a sort of grunt, 'huh ! huh !' at every feint. They observed (with that exception,) a death-like silence. I retreated before them, asking them what they wanted, and assuring them I had nothing about my person. There was for some time no reply. At last the Mussaulchee growled out the word Rooh-pee, (pronouncing it deliberately as I spell it) I said, 'All are in the Palkee !' They interchanged looks with each other, but followed me up as I retreated. From the exceeding loss of blood I suddenly became faint and sick, my knees trembled under me, and I

poverty, said he could put me in a way to get a good booty, if I would join him and some others in a scheme which they had resolved to execute. Would I swear secrecy! I promised of course. Then said he, I can tell you, that the Padre Sahib is going off to Saharunpore by Dawk on Sunday night to a Shaddee,* and he carries with him two thousand rupees,† and a casket of jewels for the bride. We have engaged ourselves to take him the first stage, and if opportunity serves, we will take him into the jungle, kill him, and throw his body into a well, and carry off the prize. It will be many days before he is found, and we shall have time to make our escape certain. But said the witness, he may have pistols and shoot some of you. No, he replied, that is not likely. He is not a soldier, and we can surely overpower him, if we are true to each other. The witness declined joining with the party, however, because Mr. G——'s police *knew* him, and the moment the Padre is missing, I shall be the *first* sought after, as my character is bad. I wish you success, but there is great danger.'

The witness said also, that the Mussaulchee had fled into the village, and concealed himself in a hut in Soosapore when first the patrol came in sight, (while the bearers were endeavouring to regain the road with the broken palanquin, purposing to say, that the Padre had been attacked by Dacoits, and had fled into the jungle, wounded). There the Mussaulchee remained all that night, and the following day. He then returned to his own home, where he now is! 'How do you know that he is there?' I have just left him, said he.

* Marriage.

† The origin of this absurd report can only be conjectured. Captain Gwatkin had requested me to take charge of a packet of books which he was anxious to send to Mr. Grindall, and which I readily undertook to do. He being the *Paymaster*, I suppose the people conjectured that it *might* probably contain rupees; and so fond are the natives of rupees, and so reckless of human life with such a temptation before them, that I do well believe for such a sum, they would have had no objection to cut as many throats, if convenient opportunity should serve.

I went to his house to hear all particulars, as everybody was talking about it, and I said, 'Now you have got 2000 rupees, you must give me *half*, or I will inform against you!' He asserted, that it was all a lie, *jhoot bat*, that there was not more than sixteen rupees in the drawer, and some silver clasps and edging of a little book, (it was my favourite little pocket Bible, a *Pasham*, given me by a dear brother. They tore off the clasps, &c. and threw away the book,) and some clothes. Here's my share of the plunder, take it, and don't betray me. The false friend (what is the friendship of the wicked worth,) received the proffered gift, and carried them immediately to the Judge, who, having furnished him with a strong guard, the culprit was soon seized, and lodged safely in the jail.

One of the prisoners was admitted king's evidence and substantiated all that the first witness had said. Another remarkable circumstance tended to prove that the bearers had carried me *out* of the direct road, which they at first denied stoutly. The soldiers from whom I had parted near the Hospital, had sauntered back to their barracks, but stood a considerable time near the guard-room in the sun-dial chabootra, watching the progress of the blazing Mussauls, and conversing with each other. They distinctly saw the light turn rapidly to the right into the jungle, (the Saharunpore road turns almost at right angles *to the left*). They became stationary a few seconds, and then were extinguished. 'About three quarters of an hour afterwards, Mr. Fisher returned to the barracks severely wounded, and all his clothes steeped in blood.'

While the surgeon was engaged in his charitable office, a messenger was despatched to communicate to my son Henry the unfortunate, or rather let me say the providential circumstances attending my proposed journey. He came, poor fellow, in haste. The shock was almost overwhelming, and indeed to my whole family, a source of exceeding sorrow, but also of exceeding thankfulness for my miraculous escape. After a few

days, when I was able to bear moving in a tonjaun, I accompanied Mr. Gorton to point out the spot where I had been attacked. It was in the thickest part of the jungle, and the place easily ascertained from the trampled state of the grass; a pair of bearer's slippers, a lattee, and the broken fragments of the palanquin, lay scattered round, and the footsteps marked in the mud at the side of the talao, evidently imprinted by some one who had been staggering about from some cause or other unable to walk steadily. The marks exactly fitted my feet, and were a sufficient proof that I had been attacked *there*, and not, as the men asserted, in the high-road. Notwithstanding the guilt of these atrocious villains was so fully substantiated, they were, by *Mahomedan law* (as I was informed) and in opposition to Mr. Gorton's opinion, acquitted, inasmuch as I was not actually killed, but the case was referred for closer reconsideration, and to the final decision of the Circuit Judge, and I believe to Calcutta, and the whole gang received some corporal punishment, and were transported to Prince of Wales's Island. One man contrived to make his escape, and was not heard of for some years. He was, however, subsequently taken up for housebreaking and murder, and was hanged at Meerut. The poor wretched creature was sent to me before his execution to ascertain if I could identify him. But the only man I could and did swear to (for I never could forget him) was the black and limping Mussaulchee.

Truly the Almighty God was with me and compassed me as with a shield. How can it ever be blotted from my memory and heart, that his marked interference in my behalf was beyond dispute or doubts. I stand amazed when I call to mind his undeserved mercies. Was it not a strange sort of infatuation that these fellows should be so blinded by their eager impatience for the prize, that they would not wait a far more convenient and distant place, three or four miles more in advance, where in all probability I must have perished for want of assistance. The wildness of the place, the

increased distance, the continued bleeding, exhausting my remaining strength, would have rendered it hopeless for me to escape. How could I have explored my way or travelled so far on foot in my exhausted state, or how understand in what direction to move! Again, how wonderful that they should have had any apprehensions of an unarmed defenceless victim, yet evidently they were kept from letting loose their rage, from some cause or other; they appeared to imagine, I had perhaps some secreted dagger in my hand, when the swordsman fell so head over heels, and never came near enough to be hit, only reaching out their lattes at a distance and springing back again, with some token of alarm when I attempted a blow. And that timely and unexpected voice too! 'Marro mut, marro mut!' Was it not the restraining mercy of God! "Slay not my servant, though he be a frail sinful man, I will spare him, I will remember his wife, his children, his flock, I have prepared for him mercy and truth and will preserve him?" Yes, my dear brother, so I consider it, let others call it lucky, good fortune, &c., I call it mercy, free, mighty, undeserved. To God be all the praise. He has delivered my soul from death, and He will deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living. How extraordinary it was that the moment of attack should be just at that particular point of time. Five minutes later, and I had heard no Ghurrhee, and what was to guide me in a dark night through a pathless waste to a place of refuge. To my heart the bell spoke intelligibly, Turn this way, come hitherwards, there are your friends, this way lies your home, and who led me by the hands, supported my unyielding spirits, staunches the bleeding, and finally healed the wounds! The Lord he is the God, the Lord he is the God. Oh! may I never forget His tender care of me and mine, but render Him faithfully, love for his love. My dear soldiers seem to have been wonderfully wrought upon by all these circumstances, and to draw round me with a degree of affection that can only be appreciated

by those who feel as they feel, and love as they love, even in the fellowship of Jesus Christ our Lord. I bless God I am nearly well, but am suffering still from weakness through the loss of blood, and severe pain in the breast from the blow of the lattee. I have also lost the free use of the muscles of the neck on the right side, and have a strange and constant nervous sensation in the jaw, which is uncomfortable, but not painful. The surgeon tells me my escape is a *miracle*. The sword passed close to the glands which secrete the saliva, and yet they were untouched. And my speech is not affected, although, from the depth of the wound in so dangerous a place, it was most likely I should have been for ever disabled as a preacher, even if I escaped as I did with life. May I ever rejoice to bless and praise His holy name, who has approved himself my guardian and my God.

HALLELUJAH !

E.

SKETCH OF THE LIFE OF THE REV. CHARLES KNORPP,
LATE MISSIONARY OF THE CHURCH MISSIONARY
SOCIETY AT BENARES.

How soothing and consolatory to the mind of the believer are the assurances contained in the word of God, that all his dispensations in providence, and all his dealings in grace towards his church, are ordered and arranged by infinite love and wisdom ! The influence and impression of these truths are felt peculiarly powerful, when his honoured and faithful servants are removed in the bloom of life, and in the zenith of activity and usefulness. That "precious in his sight is the death of his saints," is a delightful thought, and we know their lives are equally precious to him also, and are never cut short, but for some wise, though perhaps hidden reason, which if we know not now, we shall know hereafter.

It is a solemn and heart-stirring event that both hus-



band and wife were carried off so nearly together, and so unexpectedly, Mr. Knorpp dying on the 29th of March, and Mrs. K. on the 2nd of April last, at the early ages of 32, and 28. Loudly does it speak to those who remain, to "work while it is called to-day," for O how soon may the night come on *us*, "when no man can work." Humanly speaking, none could have calculated on a longer life of usefulness in India, than both of *them*, especially Mrs. Knorpp. But the Lord's ways are not as ours, and he saw fit thus early to withdraw them.

Mr. Knorpp was a native of Stuttgart, the capital of the little kingdom of Wurtemberg in Germany, which though it contains considerably fewer inhabitants than London, has produced and sent forth during the last twenty years, one third, or nearly one half, of all the missionaries who have entered the field. He had the privilege of being born of truly pious parents, in whose abode it could be seen and felt, that religion reigned pre-eminent. Their incessant prayers for their offspring were, that they might become the children of God ; and it is believed that the gentle and unceasing efforts of his kind and affectionate mother on his behalf were not unblessed. O how much is in the power of mothers, when their hearts are bent upon "the one thing needful,"—when the early conversion of their little ones is their prominent care ! As in nature, so in grace, early sowing will produce early reaping, and usually the most abundant harvest.

Mr. Knorpp was the first among many children, who appeared to be religiously impressed. His younger years were spent in school, and when that period of his life was over, his parents placed him with a friend, for the purpose of learning a trade ; but his heavenly Father had chosen him for a nobler calling, as was soon made apparent.

During his apprenticeship a family affliction,—the severe illness of his beloved mother,—and the faithful preaching of a devoted young minister, led him to deep reflection, and finally to strong conviction, and it was

at this interesting period, in his sixteenth year, that he truly and entirely gave himself up to the Lord.

The minister alluded to was the celebrated Hoffacker, whose labours at Stuttgart effected immense good, particularly among the young. Several pious youths in the warmth of their first love united together for prayer, under the direction of a holy and highly advanced Christian, and Knorpp was one of their number.

It was there that the germ of missionary zeal was planted, and in some degree developed, and after the lapse of a few years, he, with several of the other youths, publicly offered himself to become an evangelist to the heathen, and by applying to the Committee of the Mission seminary at Basle in Switzerland, he was received as a student into that institution.

It will be interesting to mention here, that this seminary, from which so many missionaries are sent out, is conducted upon the most purely scriptural principles, and appears particularly well calculated for the education of those who in the self-denying spirit of the apostles, desire to go forth among the heathen. The plan of education is well contrived to advance the spiritual growth and intellectual improvement of the students. The domestic arrangement is also peculiarly fitted to reproduce those habits of simplicity and diligence, which every missionary ought to possess.

The Principal, Mr. Blumhardt, is a man of considerable talents, great erudition, and practical piety, in whom are united what we so seldom witness—the characters of an affectionate father and counsellor, as well as most able tutor to his pupils. The whole establishment, consisting of about sixty individuals, presents the beautiful picture of a *family*, living in the most undivided harmony; humility, peace, and love, reign there in a higher degree than the writer ever remembers to have witnessed elsewhere. A sweet spirit of prayer pervades the place, which is fostered by voluntary meetings between the members of the various classes and the teachers. It may truly be said that prayer and praise re-

sound through the dwelling continually, and this doubtless is the keystone to the happy spirit of its inmates. It were indeed devoutly to be wished, that every missionary who leaves that place might ever retain the spirit of simplicity and piety which he brings from thence, and keep alive in its full warmth, the feeling which so animates both teachers and students there,—that a missionary needs more than the mere frame-work of human learning, and that his own soul must stand in the right position before God, if he wish to become a useful and efficient labourer among the heathen.

At this favoured place our sainted brother studied upwards of five years, during which he diligently redeemed his time, and made a truly satisfactory progress, evincing good abilities, and improving every opportunity for enriching his mind. His intercourse with the tutors and brethren was very beneficial to him ; he grew in knowledge and in grace, and gave pleasing promise of becoming a missionary indeed ; nor was such promise disappointed.

After leaving the seminary he once more visited his beloved parents, and bade them a final farewell. The hour of separation was bitter to their natural feelings, yet both rejoiced in seeing their son depart on such an holy errand.

Having arrived in England with several other brethren, he entered into connection with the Church Missionary Society, and prepared for ordination, to which he was admitted as a Deacon by the Bishop of London, and after this, following the call of the Committee, he proceeded to labour in North India. Himself with three missionary brethren, had the privilege of making the voyage with our present reverend diocesan, from whose society and instructive example he derived great benefit. He often mentioned afterwards with gratitude the high esteem and cordial affection he conceived and retained for his Lordship, as his last journal abundantly testifies.

Soon after landing in Calcutta he was ordained Priest, and he then proceeded to Benares, with Mr. Leupold,

his fellow-labourer. There, after diligently studying, and attaining a sufficient knowledge of Hindoe and Ordoe, he preached his first sermon to the heathen, at the expiration of nine months from his arrival, and from that period to his death he proclaimed the gospel regularly twice a day in the city of Benares.

From his own journals we learn that he pursued his noble course in the true spirit of a holy and devoted messenger of God, deeply mourning over the darkness and ignorance of the Hindoos, and grieving like Paul, when at Athens, to see that great city so wholly given to idolatry.

We cannot forbear to remark here, that perhaps none but those who are actually engaged in preaching to the heathen, can fully understand the peculiar difficulties and trials connected with this arduous work. Day after day the servant of God goes out, declaring salvation through Jesus to the perishing sinners around him ; but when he beseeches them in Christ's stead to be reconciled to God, himself and his message but too generally meet with opposition, derision, and scorn. Far different is the situation of the missionary, to that of the minister over a professedly Christian congregation. The former has, as it were, to intrude his message in many cases upon unwilling and prejudiced hearers ; and as an intruder he is frequently disregarded and opposed.

Our departed brother deeply felt this, especially in a place like Benares, which may well be termed the headquarters of Hindoo bigotry and superstition, and he feelingly alludes to it towards the close of his last journal, at the very termination of his labours ; after which he remarks, that ' had not a missionary a gracious Saviour, before whose throne he may come with all his cares and anxieties, there would be no possibility of bearing up under the trials of his faith, and of keeping his hand to the plough.' But " they that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength ;" and this promise was fulfilled in the experience of our beloved brother. Grace was given him to persevere to the end ; he fought the good fight, he kept the faith, and has finished his course.

In November 1834, Mr. Knorpp was united to a pious partner, Miss West of Islington, with whom he had formed an engagement in London. She proved a sweet-tempered, affectionate, and useful helpmate to him, and became the mother of two dear infants, who are now left orphans. From April 1836, Mrs. Knorpp took an active part in the management of the Benares Church Mission Orphan Institution, which has lost much by her removal.

The following interesting extract of a letter received from Mr. Leupold, contains the affecting account of the last illness and death of these valuable missionaries :

‘ On my return from my excursion I found dear brother Knorpp in a weak state of health, but my presence seemed to revive him. He was very anxious to go into tents for a week or a fortnight, hoping to be able to ward off a sickness, of the approach of which he had some presentiment. Circumstances over which he had no controul compelled him to postpone going for a week, and we therefore spent a few happy days together. I was stopping with them, and never before observed them so earnest in prayer ;—they were both preparing for heaven. A holy earnestness rested on dear Knorpp’s brow, whilst his wife was more affectionate than ever. She had prepared several little things against my arrival, to welcome me, and her husband and myself could not but smile at her ingenious inventions.

‘ During their absence from home I had several letters from them, expressive of their desire for the coming of Christ’s kingdom, and their affection towards me. In one of them brother Knorpp after complaining of his unprofitableness, says, ‘ O that I had the love of a John, the zeal of a Paul, and the strength of a Goliath.’ And Mrs. Knorpp’s desires were most ardently expressed, for living more to the glory of God, and more in communion with him.

‘ After being a fortnight in tents, they returned home, but it appeared to me that neither of them had derived much benefit from the trip. Knorpp had evidently be-

come weaker, but his partner stated that she never felt better in her life than she did then.

‘As poor Knorpp suffered more daily, I pressed him to consult the doctor, and on Friday the 9th of March prevailed on him to do so; but he did not think Knorpp’s case a dangerous one. What made me uncomfortable, was a bad cough which he had, and at the same time I observed that the health of Mrs. Knorpp became impaired. Her rosy cheeks grew pale, and a languor was perceptible in her eyes, with a depression of mind, which alarmed me. Soon after this they both lost their appetite, and on the tenth, Knorpp was obliged to remain in bed, and his poor wife was much excited, for her impression was, ‘my husband will not live.’ During two days and nights she was incessantly engaged in nursing him; though I entreated her not to exert herself so much, yet I could not prevail. I shall never forget the impression I received on entering their house the day after Knorpp took to his bed; both were asleep beside each other, one as pale as death, and the other flushing red, as though a burning fever were raging in her veins. That evening I begged much to stay during the night with brother Knorpp, but she would not permit it.

‘On the following Tuesday when returning from the city, I found her really ill with fever, still she wished to go on attending her husband, but here I interfered, and prepared a couch for her in his study, on which she reclined. From that hour they saw each other no more in this world. During the day, the fever continued to increase on her, yet the doctor thought nothing of her illness, supposing it, as we all did, to be merely the effect of excitement and anxiety of mind. He ordered both to be kept quiet, and I went from one room to another, endeavouring to administer spiritual and temporal comfort to each of them.

‘On Wednesday in the afternoon Mrs. Knorpp came out of her room towards the place where I was sitting, and looked with intense anxiety upon me. I smiled at

her, and she went away ; but a few minutes after she called me, and said, ' As I lay here on my couch, my husband stood before me as if prepared to go out. He was in a great hurry and wished to kiss me, but as I hesitated, he disappeared.' She wept much, and added, ' He is dead.' I cannot express with what anguish of mind she related this, and I was exceedingly affected too, but endeavoured to show her, that the whole was in consequence of excited imagination, which she allowed.


' But on Thursday the sickness took a serious turn with both, and I found my strength not equal to my task. I therefore thankfully accepted the kind offer of our dear missionary brethren to share with me in my labour of love. About eight o'clock at night I prepared to retire, having been four nights without rest, but when giving dear Knorpp some barley-water, I perceived to my sorrow his countenance changed, his teeth closed, his eyes become fixed, and death seemed to spread over his whole frame. The doctor immediately applied a blister to his head, and being greatly fatigued, I lay down, though the impression of my dying brother was too vivid in my mind to allow me to sleep. At one o'clock I was sent for, as he was supposed to be dying ; we prayed with him, and he prayed also. It seemed that at the beginning of the night his prospects of eternity had been gloomy, but when I saw him, they were bright. He exhorted the servants, spoke to me in German, and then said, " Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly !" Being asked how he felt, he replied, ' Peace, peace, peace is in my soul, a bright light shines before me. I could tell you more, but I must not.' His countenance beamed with heavenly joy, and every one could see that the Lord was gracious to him. Some time afterwards he said to me in German, ' Ah it is a hard thing before the thread of life is cut through. I am dying, there is no more hope of life ; a little while, and I shall be with the Lord.' I could not reply for tears ; he was so resigned, and looked with such longing joy towards his approaching dissolution.

‘The doctor requested me to inform Mrs. Knorpp of the danger in which he was, to prepare her for the final stroke. I therefore mentioned to her the whole of what had transpired during the night, to which she listened with joy and great interest, exclaiming, ‘O how happy to be in such a frame of mind, and so prepared ; but he will die, and not survive, though he may be somewhat better this morning ;’ at the same time adding, ‘I hope the Lord will spare me, for I am not yet prepared, I have not prayed enough, or been so faithful as I ought.’ I then pointed her to Jesus, as the all-sufficient Saviour of such unfaithful sinners as we are, and I also begged her to prepare for the sad tidings of her husband’s going home, because though he was then better, he was still in such danger, that a relapse of fever might open his way into heaven. She calmly looked at me and said, ‘I am prepared, and have been so from the beginning.’

‘Brother Knorpp lingered on notwithstanding these very unfavourable symptoms, but on Sunday the 25th, he became very weak, and believing his dissolution to be at hand, he called for me : he was perfectly sensible, but unable to speak, and therefore called for pencil and paper, and wrote a few sentences containing his dying request to me. He then wished to write to his dear wife, but perceiving that it cost him too much exertion, I took the paper from him.

‘After that day he became frequently delirious, sometimes fancying he lay in quicksand, at other times in fire, or between red-hot stones. Poor Mrs. K. too became very ill ; for six days she slept scarcely an hour, and took medicine but to little purpose. I despaired of her life, yet I hoped against hope ; but she was evidently aware of the approaching crisis, and requested me to destroy all her papers after her death ; and then she exclaimed, “I die, I die ; I trust the Lord will pardon me, and receive me to himself.”

‘My own sufferings, as you may imagine, were most intense, not bodily, but mentally, yet as my day, so was my strength. I could now and then speak to my God



as it were face to face, and this was my consolation. But though the spirit was willing, the flesh was weak, and I felt truly thankful to the dear missionary brethren, who all regularly relieved me in turn. Their good ladies too watched Mrs. Knorpp day and night, and when she was so far reduced as to be obliged to give up nursing her babe, Mrs. Mather kindly offered to take him along with her own little girl. Mr. Nicholls likewise took dear Sophia, and how deeply I felt their kindness, you can better imagine than I can describe. I am sure their reward, and indeed that of all the dear missionary brethren and sisters, will be great in heaven, for their deep sympathy and unceasing kindness.

‘About this time I was myself seized with the same malignant fever, and retired to bed with the deep impression that I should never rise again. I therefore took leave of my dear brother, who was then perfectly sensible. We parted with the assurance on both sides of *never seeing each other again* in this world, nor did we see each other again, as I became dangerously ill, and during the height of my attack, our dear brother departed. His end was peace; his prospects of eternity remained bright to the last, he breathed hard, I was told, for two hours, and then fell asleep. I was deprived of the privilege of closing his eyes and attending his funeral, and my feelings were acute, but the Lord was my consolation. Never in all my life was He so gracious to me as on that day; tears of sorrow and of joy mingled, and I could not help calling out. “O for a thousand tongues to sing, my dear Redeemer’s praise.”

‘As soon as I was somewhat recovered, I went to see poor Mrs. Knorpp; she had heard of my illness, but nothing was told her of her husband’s death, nor did she ever hear it. She asked but once after him, and the question was not answered. How she will have been rejoiced at finding him in heaven, ready to welcome her there! I was with her for about two hours; she was perfectly sensible, and said she felt better, but to me she appeared dying. We parted in tears; I was wavering

between hope and fear, but the latter predominated, and in the morning when I awoke, I heard that her spirit too had left its earthly tabernacle, and taken its flight to its eternal mansions. It seems that after I left her, her illness took a decided turn, she complained of being obliged to lie in iron and hot water, just as her husband had done, and like him she breathed hard for two hours, and fell asleep on the 2nd of April. Her countenance in death bespoke the peace which must have filled her soul at her departure ; and she seemed to smile at my tears.

‘She was interred the following day, and lies to the left hand of her beloved husband, and there they both repose together, till the archangel shall awake them with his trump.

‘This sickness was not quite apparent, perhaps it was the putrid fever, for it seemed to seize from the beginning on the very vitals, and I still feel the effect of my four days’ illness. All the care and attention possible, were rendered to our beloved friends ; two most clever and intelligent medical men were constantly with them, one of whom always passed the night in the house.

‘As I remarked before, *all* our missionary brethren and sisters watched over them in turn, night and day, with unceasing solicitude, and fervent prayers were offered for them both in public and in private, but the Lord was pleased not to grant them, and who shall ask, Why ! We shall ere long perceive what now appears mysterious, and this is enough.

‘And now what more shall I say ? They are gone home, and are safe. I shall perhaps soon follow, and I declare with sincerity that, though I pray to live a little longer for my work’s sake, I long to be with Christ.

‘These cutting bereavements have, I hope, created in me a stronger desire than I ever before felt, to live more to God’s glory, and to cleave closer to Him from whom death cannot separate me ; and although my intense feelings of joy and sorrow will pass away, these desires I trust *never will*.’

It is unnecessary to add anything to these extracts, as they speak for themselves all that might otherwise have been said. We can abundantly perceive from them the truth of the remarks with which this sketch commences, and likewise that the last days of God's faithful servants are a true comment upon their lives; and we cannot do better than exclaim, "May we die the death of the righteous, and may our last end be like his."

BENARES.

City of idol-temples and of shrines,
Where folly kneels to falsehood, how the pride
Of our humanity is here rebuked !
Man that aspires to rule the very wind,
And make the sea confess his majesty.
Whose intellect can fill a little scroll,
With words that are immortal : who can build
Cities, the mighty and the beautiful,
Yet man, this glorious creature can debase
His spirit down to worship wood and stone
And hold the very beasts which bear his yoke,
And tremble at his eye, for sacred things !
With what unutterable humility,
We should bow down, O holy Lord, to Thee,
Seeing our vanity and foolishness,
When to our own devices left, we frame
A shameful creed of craft and cruelty !

LOSS OF LIVES AT A BATHING FESTIVAL.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received a letter from a missionary friend, who was on the spot, stating that a day or two before he wrote, a bathing festival had taken place at Benares, at the junction of the Barna and the Ganges, not a quarter of a mile from his own house, at about three in the morning, when, awful to state, *three hundred persons* were literally trodden to death. After day-light

the Thanader went to the spot, and on taking the depositions, was told that that number had perished. He however deemed it too appalling to make such a report to the magistrate, and therefore after some consultation, determined upon reporting the death of one hundred and seventy. And whilst this was going on, the friends of the deceased were busily employed in extricating their friends and relations, and consigning them to the flames. In the evening of the same day the missionary went to the spot, and saw more than thirty corpses still lying in the spot, and the domes were dragging them into the Gangá.

This is not the first time that such deadly scenes have taken place at Benares, for not more than two or three years ago, a similar catastrophe took place at one of the Gháts in the city itself; when, about two o'clock in the morning a sacred bathing took place during an eclipse of the moon, and the Sepahees from Secrole rushed up the narrow lane leading to the river, and upwards of forty persons were trodden to death.

If idolatry and superstition have made such havock in one single city of Hindoostan in one year, what must they have done in all parts of India—surely tens of thousands must have been its victims annually! And this is the system that is considered *innocent* and *harmless*. And this is the religion that is countenanced and defended by the Court of Directors and the Supreme Government of India for the sake of filthy lucre! This ~~godless~~ is worshipped by a body of men calling themselves Christians! Alas! why not throw off the mask! renounce Christianity, and openly profess Hindooism ~~at once?~~ They would then be acting consistently. ~~But no, they will not do this, on account of the odium attaching to it—their pride must also be fed. But they~~ ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~accept~~ ~~their~~ ~~reward~~ ~~as~~ ~~a~~ ~~Government.~~ The Most ~~High~~ ~~will~~ ~~not~~ ~~suffer~~ ~~such~~ ~~a~~ ~~line~~ ~~of~~ ~~conduct~~ ~~to~~ ~~pass~~ ~~unpunished.~~ They will doubtless suffer in time; and if ~~they~~ ~~do~~ ~~not~~ ~~repent~~ ~~and~~ ~~retrace~~ ~~their~~ ~~steps,~~ rue it to all ~~eternity.~~ May the Lord in rich mercy prevent their

destruction, and open a way for the liberation of these poor deluded beings from the power of sin and Satan, and make them freemen of the Lord.

Yours,

A. MOFUSSILITE.

JOURNAL OF A MISSIONARY AT BENARES.*

Feb. 24, 1837.—We had the pleasure to meet the bishop this evening at the chaplain's house. His Lordship and Mr. Bateman received us with expressions of affection. It was a great joy to see each other again after an interval of more than four years. We dined at the chaplain's in company with some other gentlemen. His Lordship as well as Mr. Bateman looked exceedingly well.

Feb. 26.—The Bishop preached this morning a very interesting sermon on Heb. xiii. 8, and agreeably to our request had a collection for our Mission; after which we had the Lord's Supper. The collection amounted to about 460 rupees. The Rev. Mr. Bateman preached a good sermon in the evening.

Feb. 27.—The Bishop held a confirmation and then proceeded to Bengalee tola for an examination of all our schools. His Lordship principally carried on the examination, and expressed himself much pleased with the progress of the different boys. After the examination, his Lordship and Mr. Bateman returned to the Mission-compound much exhausted from the fatigue of the day. The day was unusually hot. With many kind and paternal wishes the Bishop left us, expressing a hope to see us soon again.

March.—This has been a month of much trouble and anxiety to me. At the middle of this month I was

* This interesting Journal of Missionary labours, is that of the excellent and lamented Rev. C. Knorpp, who died at Benares on the 39th of March 1838, aged 31 years, and was survived by his wife only four days. They have left two infants.

taken ill with a severe fever (which I fear was produced by too much exposure to the sun,) which lasted four days, and to our great surprise and alarm the small-pox made its appearance. As it may be supposed, this was a time of much anxiety and fear. But the Lord was gracious to me and to my family, and preserved me in the midst of danger. The small-pox was of the distinct kind, and of a very mild nature. On all sides nothing but death was to be seen and heard. The small-pox carried many off, and then the cholera commenced raging in an awful manner. Europeans as well as natives died of these diseases. Thirty, forty to fifty according to police calculation, died daily of cholera in Benares. Many persons came daily to me for medicine. Still no impression is made on the natives. Death has lost its horror among them, and none asketh, "What must I do to be saved?" The disease went to such a pitch that persons being quite well this moment, fell down dead the next. A lad in my employ, whilst drinking water, vomited once, fell down, and was instantly dead. Oh that men would consider the awfulness of appearing before a righteous Judge, and repent of their evil works and idolatry and turn to the Lord Jesus Christ!

The missionary work was partly interrupted by my illness, but by the mercy of God I shall again be enabled to commence preaching in the city. The small-pox has left great weakness of body behind, and the doctor will not allow me any exertion as yet. A Bairagee visits me frequently. He met us in the city. I had many interesting conversations with him, and he appears to have received a conviction of the truth of Christianity. The last time when he was with me he expressed himself strongly convinced that Christ is the only true God and Saviour. 'I have chosen him, he said, as the only object of my meditations and worship, and wherever I may go to, I shall keep my heart and mind fixed upon him.' The Bairagee expressed a strong desire to go to Adjudia (Faizabad), but had postponed

his journey, in order to have some more conversations with me on our religion. I suppose from his long absence that he is gone upon his journey.

April.—I had several very interesting discussions with pundits in the city. But it is really awful to see these men struggling against the convictions divine truth is producing upon them. Their blasphemous expressions, imputations against the God of heaven, cannot be uttered. Oh I fear many harden their hearts and give themselves up to all kinds of iniquities! On the 20th instant was an eclipse of the moon. People from all parts of the country were flocking to the holy city, and gave us opportunity to preach to them the word of God. I met with some very interesting men, who listened with great desire to our conversations, and confessed the folly of seeking pardon of sins in the water of the Ganges. I think that above all, the people in Benares are the worst and the most profane and shameless sinners. As soon as they see any one attentive and making interesting questions, they laugh him to scorn and frighten him away. I fear they are growing worse and worse, like the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. At different times respectable Brahmins seeing the attention of the people, and being enraged, and some also with cold blood, asserted this horrible doctrine, that God is the doer of good and evil actions—He is a liar, a thief, a murderer, &c. The heart bleeds to hear men of sound understanding and much knowledge declare and assert the most holy God to be such an abominable creature, and that all merely in opposition to holy doctrines explained to every one who likes to listen. May God have mercy upon them!

May 3.—I had a most interesting morning in the city at Dassa Samed. This place being near the river and leading to it, is one of the most populous, and much frequented by Brahmins. We were listened to by many of the Brahmins, and several of them entered into conversation. One appeared to be very attentive. He spoke very calmly and candidly, and entered into a

regular argument about Hindooism and Christianity. He dropped the arguments in favour of Hindooism, and my conversation assumed more the form of an address. An elderly man, most bitter against Christianity, and a decided enemy, who had on former occasions annoyed us in every possible manner, coming up to us, was very angry when seeing the attention of the people, and commenced his railing. Already had he succeeded in getting a few men over to him who joined in his sins. But I continued to speak, taking no notice, and becoming more serious in my address, I saw the old man gradually moving nearer and nearer, until he reached the wooden pillar of the verandah under which I sat. He listened with great seriousness and never spoke a word. The Brahmin, with whom I had conversed, testified that our doctrines were the truth, and desired a Gospel, which I gave him with a tract. A Bairagee observing the Brahmin's seriousness, commenced to abuse him. 'Will you forsake your religion and accept that of strangers?' said the man. 'And what is that to you?' replied the Brahmin, 'if I find the truth in it, I shall.' They quarrelled for some time. The Bairagee demanded that he should return the books to me, which he would not, nor did. The old man then took the Brahmin's part, saying, that in those books are only words of righteousness—'Read them,' said he, 'it will do you no harm.' I was surprised at these expressions of this our bitter enemy, who at other times would rather have knocked the Brahmin down than taken his part. The old man went away. Who knows, perhaps this morning's conversations have made a lasting impression. Another bitter enemy came up to us. He wanted to dispute with me, and charged me with robbing his people of their righteousness and religion. I gave him a practical question to solve, saying: You know that Vishnoo in his nine incarnations exhibited his character. It behoves God to give men moral lessons by words and deeds, and thereby to direct them in the way of holiness. Now observe the nine incarnations committed all kinds of crimes: fornica-



tion, adultery, thefts, lies, and having shown you their immoral actions, teach you thereby and encourage you to do the same. Now Jesus Christ, the incarnation of our shasters, never committed any thing which was sinful—no sin was found in him. He was full of righteousness and holiness, and his words corresponded with his character ; for he said—Thou shalt not commit adultery, and whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her, hath committed adultery already in his heart ; he said, Thou shalt not make a lie ; thou shalt not covet, &c. Now, I continued,—please tell me which do you consider righteousness ? that which Vishnoo taught in his incarnations, or that which Christ taught in word and deed ? He would not answer, only replied, When we are alone together, then will we speak about it : he went off making a salaam. Another Brahmin asked what opinion I taught respecting God ? Sargoon or Nirgoon ? Neither the one nor the other, was my answer. According to the doctrine of Sargoon, you believe that God is a stone, a river, a plant, &c. and according to Nirgoon, you make him a nullity in the universe, and besides this believe that the principle of life in man and beast is God. I went over the old ground of arguments with him, showing Hindooism in its pure light, and explained the fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion to him. He had nothing to say, and before he left, received some tracts at his request.

We had a great storm last night with some rain, which cleared and cooled the atmosphere. This morning was very pleasant, and I could spend my time till nearly ten o'clock in the city.

May 30.—Since the very hot weather, I can only spend the mornings amongst the people ; the evenings are so excessively oppressive that it would be highly imprudent to act otherwise. However, once or twice, when it is my turn to preach in the chapels, and which custom we wish to keep up, it cannot be avoided. Nothing of much interest has occurred to me of late. The Bairagee who has paid me visits some time since,

gave me some encouragement, and perhaps the day is not so distant when they will renounce that which is false, and accept that which is true. May the Holy Spirit guide their inquiries!

At the close of this I must observe, that Paschat, the Bauragee, who left me as mentioned in the preceding journal, came back again in December last. He begged very hard that I would receive him again, confessing his only sin having left our premises. Since that time I am happy to observe, that his conduct is different to what it was before, and his mind more attentive to the concerns of his soul, though I say it with trembling that his case is hopeful. Whoever knows a little of this country, is sufficiently acquainted with the temptations that assail our native inquirers and Christians. There is outward and inward temptation which they have no grace to withstand, and Satan is busy enough in all in his power to bring those that stand to fall. The peculiar circumstances, in which a missionary is placed, make the work consequently so much more difficult and trying. His hopes are frequently frustrated when most promising. Has he received a few as a seal of his ministry from among the heathen? then he must ever be upon his guard like a watchman not to lose them again by being drawn by their own lusts and the temptations of their former companions and associates into their old sins again. No one knows the trials of a faithful missionary, and no one can sufficiently sympathize with him. Had he not a gracious Saviour, before whose throne he may come with all his cares and anxieties, there would be no possibility of bearing up under the trials of his faith, and of keeping his hand to the plough. May the Lord not forsake us by reason of our unworthiness, and many mistakes and omissions we are guilty of in his righteous and holy cause. May the sympathy of our Christian brethren and sisters be more excited towards this country so full of idolatry, vice, and all abominations, and may they pray more for the latter rain—the gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all flesh!

OBITUARY OF STEPHEN LAPRIMAUDAYE, ESQ.

This "aged disciple" departed this life at the Old Church Parsonage on Sunday morning Aug. 9th. He had attained to more than the appointed years of man's life, having reached the advanced age of nearly seventy-five, most of which had been passed in this debilitating climate.

His death was attended with all those mitigating circumstances which follow a life of faith on the Son of God. It was like the composed setting of the evening sun, or the gathering of the full ripe grain into the garner—all was peaceful, and calm, and serene, and joyful.

The friends who surrounded his dying bed, had seen him under circumstances, which left but little expectation of his revival, about three years before, and the faith which he then expressed, and the hope which then supported him, shewed how firm was the foundation on which his eternal views and expectations were based. The same faith and hope, strengthened by the exemplary patience of the three subsequent years, sustained him amidst the last conflict. He died on the day of sacred rest—at the time that God's people were worshipping within the walls of the earthly sanctuary, and within hearing of the organ's peals, which just at the moment were guiding and accompanying the voices of those who "make melody in their hearts to the Lord:" happy emblem, we trust, of that eternal sabbath on which he at the time entered,—of that glorious society of angels and the spirits of just men made perfect which he then joined; and of that happy choir of the "heavenly sphere" who praise God day and night in his temple, and who sing the song of Moses and the Lamb without weariness and without cessation, whose voices he was then permitted to emulate.

The faith of this aged saint had been evidenced by holy fruits through a long series of years. He was simple-hearted, docile, benevolent, desirous to know and

do his Master's will. No one could be near him without being impressed with the conviction, "Behold an Israelite indeed in whom is no guile."

But he rests from his labours and his works follow him, and if ever surviving friends felt the force of the admonition, "not to sorrow as others who have no hope," it will be felt and is so in the present case. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; yea, even so saith the Spirit."

MEMORIAL OF CAPT. W—. OF THE BENGAL ARMY.

1 Thess. ii. 13.

There is nothing in this transitory life more calculated to impress us with a firm belief in the truth of the Word of God, than attending the death-bed of a Christian:—to mark the consolation he derives from a knowledge and heartfelt persuasion of its efficacy, in the hour of need, when this world is but as a shadow, passing away, and eternity appears in view, cannot but seal upon the minds of those who witness it, the necessity of seeking the Lord whilst He may be found; that, in the same trying hour they may be enabled with equal confidence and certain hope to look to the throne of grace.

I know little or nothing of —'s early life, except what he may casually have mentioned to me. A friend who was intimately acquainted with the deceased, before he went to England on furlough in 1830, said to me, 'W. was then much as other men; and I was astonished at the change which had taken place in him, when I again met him, after his return from furlough.'

I had first the pleasure of becoming acquainted with the deceased in January 1843, when he was living with a religious friend at Chinsurah: he had then the truth of the gospel at heart.

I know not whether this blessed truth first took root in England, or after his return to India; but as he often

talked to me of the excellent preachers he had heard at home, I am led to think that it was planted there ; and that on his return to this country, the death of a dear relation, and the accounts of his glorious death-bed, were, through God's blessing, the means of making it grow and flourish. That the latter event made a deep impression on his mind, the following interesting document, found amongst his papers after his demise, will abundantly shew :—

'Chinsurah, Feb. 6, 1834.

'The frame of mind I find myself in is so pleasant, that, as an incentive to the future, I write it down. For some two months,—since indeed, the time I received the tidings of my dear and ever to be lamented brother W——'s death, I have felt an inward satisfaction and delight in prayer, I never experienced before : his being so suddenly called from this world, and at a time of perfect health, after a residence in this country of upwards of thirty years, when on the very eve of leaving it, to join his dear wife and family in England, so shocked me, so brought to my mind and in so vivid a manner, the power of the Almighty, that I looked up to him from my heart as my Father, my only hope through his blessed Son Jesus Christ.

'The cares and anxieties of this fleeting life will soon pass away ; but his kingdom shall endure for ever.

'Oh ! that I may have faith without wavering,—that I may resist the manifold temptations so constantly set in my path, and strive to be good from a nobler motive than fear.'

Circumstances prevented my seeing much of my deceased friend, till near the close of 1834, when, our corps being at the same station, he asked me to live with him ; an offer which I most readily and thankfully accepted.

Pascal observes in his 'Thoughts,' on the vanity of man : 'We wish to live an ideal life in the minds of others ; and for this purpose we constrain ourselves to

desire to see him, he was admitted. I am happy to see you,' my friend said, 'I pray that the Lord may remove me.' Mr. C—— told him he ought not to wish so. My friend rejoined, 'but I have always added, "Thy will be done,"' and turning to me, 'Have not I always said, "Thy will be done."'

He seemed and expressed himself much pleased with the short and beautiful prayer, Mr. C—— offered up at his bedside. And although he was too unwell to receive another visit from him, he twice or thrice expressed the pleasure his visit had given him.

On another occasion, (referring to an offer I had made to read a Psalm to him, to which he was too unwell to accede,) he said to me, 'we must commence reading the Scriptures to-morrow.' A dear friend who was standing by, remarked, 'It will not be a commencement with you, for you have constantly read them for long past.' 'Ah yes! yes!' my friend said, and appeared lost in pleasing recollections.

Two evenings before his death, a dear friend came from Calcutta to see him. My friend was lying quite still at the time, and had been speaking to me calmly a minute before. I whispered to him that his dear friend G—— had come from Calcutta to assist in nursing him. 'Who? he asked: 'Who? Christ come to nurse me?' From this time he sunk rapidly. The medical gentlemen (who had been most attentive) did all in their power to alleviate his sufferings, and they were successful, for after lingering thirty hours longer, he fell calmly into the sleep of death. The last words he distinctly uttered were 'Wonderful! how wonderful!'

DEATH OF MRS. SCHNEIDER.

'Benares, July 31, 1839.

'In writing to you this time, I do not know whether I shall speak of the goodness of God, or of the afflictive dispensation with which the Lord has again been pleased to visit us. Mercies and chastisement are so mixed,

that I do not know whether I shall sing psalms, or sit down in the dust and weep : my heart is sad, yet I have cause to magnify the good will of my God towards me. I rejoice in the Lord, and yet sorrow and tears mingle with my joy.

‘ You will understand better and rejoice with me, when I tell you that it pleased our heavenly Father to present us with a sweet little daughter, on Friday night about 10 o’clock, but you will also mingle a tear of sorrow with ours, when I inform you that the same gracious Father, according to his heavenly wisdom, was pleased to remove our dearly-beloved sister Schneider to a better land.

‘ On Thursday Mrs. Schneider had a slight attack, which seemed to increase on Friday. In the morning, however, she was pretty well. We finished the book of Daniel, and spake together on the blessed hope of the resurrection. Our hearts were full, and we rejoiced at the prospect before us. The invisible world seemed to be more united to the visible one than ever. We enjoyed the presence of the Lord. Life and immortality were before us, and we rejoiced in the anticipation of that blessed morn, when the believer’s expectations shall all be realized, when mortality shall be swallowed up of life, our souls reunited to our glorified bodies, and we all enter with the Lord the realms of eternal bliss. But little did we think, that she, in whose society we promised ourselves yet many enjoyments, would so soon be permitted to realize all these blessings, and that within two days after, we should have to commit earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in *sure* and *certain* hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ. But thus it pleased the Lord, and our duty is to be still and know that the Lord is God !

Dear Brother Schneider sorrows deeply, but not as such who have no hope. He is resigned, assured that all is well, though he is unable to fathom this mysterious dispensation. He has lost a jewel such as there are few in this world. Dear sister Schneider was a pattern

lity, would be the bed of death. He had hoped, if it had pleased God to allow him time, to use the influence of his situation in advancing religion, and especially in encouraging the various institutions which had been formed for the benefit of India ; but the very serious aspect of his sickness had put a stop to all his plans, and had led him to examine his motives strictly, and to feel that he was *nothing*. His anxious desire was now to acknowledge the hand of God, in the exercise of entire patience and resignation to his holy will. After some farther conversation on this topic, at his request I prayed with him, having previously read a portion of Scripture referred to in the Visitation for the Sick. He was visibly affected with a solemn and thankful sense of that passage, that the Father of spirits chastens us for our profit, that we may be partakers of *His holiness*, and added his fervent *Amen*—that it might be so with him. It is impossible to convey adequately the solemn pathos, the tone of tenderness, the dignity and humility with which he spoke.

On the following day he complained of great pain, and observed that his disorder was still a mystery. He did not know how it would terminate ; but he added, ‘One thing we know, *He doeth all things well*, and, in whatever it may end, it *must end well*.’ His countenance was illumined with an expression of cheerfulness when he said this, which plainly showed the inward composure of his mind. At nine in the evening, I found him in bed, and much exhausted. He could not converse. I read the *100th Psalm*, making such little remarks as seemed suited to his circumstances, and prayed with him. After prayer, he spoke of receiving the Sacrament. It was his particular wish not to defer it too long. It was an ordinance he much enjoyed. He was in a very happy frame of mind, and repeated the lines—

‘Singing, as I went to heaven,
Sweet affliction, sweet affliction!’

About two o’clock on Friday, I received a message

from the doctor, that he was sinking fast. I went and administered the Sacrament to him, which he had looked forward to with much earnestness. It was a memorable occasion. It was necessary to curtail the service as much as possible. I began with the prayer, 'We do not presume to come to this thy table,' &c. It was delightfully affecting to witness his fervour, his humility, his holy enjoyment of the ordinance. In order to shorten the service, I proceeded to the benediction after the prayer, leaving out the hymn of praise, 'Glory be to God on high.' He immediately noticed the omission, and interrupted me, pronouncing himself with great animation, the whole of that beautiful part of the service. We were all greatly affected. I cordially thanked him for noticing the omission, and *with tears of joy we concluded the service together.*

The service being concluded, he requested me to draw the chair close to his couch, and sit down, at the same time intimating his wish that all others might withdraw. He then most affectionately put out his hand and entreated me to pray for him that he might be delivered *from all false confidence*, adding, that he felt much peace; but that when he reflected on his past life, he could not but feel a trembling sense of his demerit; that he trusted in the mercy of God through Christ, but that at such a season, and in a matter of such importance, he felt it necessary to pray against false confidences. He repeated this expression with great earnestness. I replied that God would not disappoint the hope founded on the merit of his Son. To which he replied, 'That is true; I am perfectly satisfied on that point. My views are strong and clear. I have no cloud or doubt, and long to be with my God and Saviour. O when will the time come? To this time I have looked forward—O God thou knowest. It does not take me by surprise—I have been preparing for it. For some years past I have been endeavouring to withdraw from the world, avoiding as much as possible all new connections, and labouring to be ready for my

were no strangers to Mrs. Wilson's little flock, many cordial greetings passed between us and them.

We soon had the gratification of seeing the dear children at their morning meal, seated on the floor in their usual native mode, around three sides of a long room : one of the eldest of these brands from the burning besought the blessing of the Christian's God upon the food He had given, and praised Him for its bestowment when the meal was done. Their food was simple and good, nor did appetite seem to be wanting. It was a lovely sight to behold so many Indian females so cared for and so blessed—more especially when the mind glanced at what their condition might have been, had not this refuge been opened for them—*slaves*—outcasts—lost for time and for eternity. No approach to European manners, save the important one alluded to, and that too of cleanliness, was observable in their meal, and it is Mrs. Wilson's wise resolve to bring up her interesting flock in a manner which will render them individually fitted for the stations they will most probably be called upon to fill—those of laborious industry. Indeed all here bore the stamp of *consistent* practical piety ; and if almost spotless cleanliness, neatness and order, are attractions, friends in the Lord will do well to visit this monument of Christian faith and perseverance.

After this many of the children assembled, and read the Scriptures in English, translating them into Bengalee as they proceeded, in a manner which clearly proved their understanding of the sacred truths they read : and sang several beautiful English hymns to English tunes very sweetly, and with a correctness which surprised us. One large, light, and airy school-room contained many classes busily employed in reading the Scriptures in Bengalee and English, &c., while in another apartment twelve or fourteen were engaged in worsted work, which they have learned to do in a manner that would be no discredit to more educated and more privileged young people.

Distant from the contamination of the city, and far

from its noise and tumult, this invaluable institution is working its important way ; its inmates being, as much as possible, independent of all without its walls ; for the children are taught to labour for themselves and those about them, and their efforts, willingly afforded, are found sufficient, yea, more than sufficient, for the proper discharge of the domestic duties of the Refuge ; thus dispensing with that most fertile source of vice in India—heathen servants.

The situation of the Refuge is interesting : standing as it does on the bank of an extensive reach, it affords a lovely prospect of the majestic flood, as it rolls on its way, spotted with barks of all descriptions, not the less beautiful to a British eye because they are rudely constructed. To us the air was balm, and seemed to bring health and strength on its wings as it swept over the mighty river,—nor were our souls untouched, for all things seemed to say, ‘Christian, thy God is here.’ Pray, ye that love the Lord Jesus, that the blessing of Jehovah may abundantly rest on this oasis in this vast desert of idolatry, that many may be the palm-trees that shall flourish there.

Long has the founder of the India Female Orphan Refuge laboured in this land, and the existence of this institution is one of many proofs that she has not laboured in vain ; how should every feeling of grace, yea and many of nature too, lead Christians in India to strengthen her hands and comfort her heart. Look around ! we find tributes rising to the honour of the good and great, and sums are lavished on things without profit ; but the Parian marble, however fair, the monumental tomb however lofty, the sculptured bust however exquisitely wrought, shall ill stand the convulsion of that day, when earth and heaven shall pass away, and the elements melt with fervent heat. Here is an opportunity for those to whom God has richly lent earthly goods, to prove themselves faithful stewards by erecting a temple of immortal souls, a spiritual building which the terrors of that day shall only beau-

tify, removing it from earth to heaven : then no refuge shall we need, once entering into the eternal kingdom we shall go no more out, then shall there never more be an orphan, for all shall have a *heavenly* Father : " then our notes of praise shall for ever swell the song, and labours, sorrows, pains and griefs, be lost in one eternal joy ! " Till that happy day arrive, let us plead for the fatherless, and remember those who labour in the Lord, and esteem them very highly for their work's sake.

CONVERSION OF A NATIVE.

Written by a Native Convert.

On the 23rd of February 1839, with feelings of gratitude and thankfulness to the Lord we were permitted to witness the sacrament of baptism administered at Bishop's College chapel to a native named Bissonauth. The circumstances regarding his conversion are both interesting and encouraging. About two years ago he received some tracts which were distributed by a native Catechist attached to the Baptist mission : he read and examined them carefully, and saw the difference between Christianity and his own religion ; subsequently he heard the word preached by a native in a small chapel on the road, and read some more tracts. These led him to a more energetic inquiry—he felt his lost state and the necessity of a Redeemer—he compared the word of God with the Shasters, and soon he was enabled by divine grace to detect the falsity of the latter, and heartily desire to embrace the other. The first step he took, was to renounce Hindooism ; he was engaged in the service of a person, where Hindoos, Mahomedans and Portuguese united in persecuting him continually for about twelve months ; after which time he lost his employment, and continued to reside amongst them : his persecutions were unabated, his constant desire for the salvation of his soul also remained in vigour and

activity by Him who is the Giver of all good—in this situation he was introduced to the writer of these lines. Upon being questioned as to his reasons for embracing Christianity, he replied, ‘I know I must die one day, and when this body is dead, the immortal soul within, which can never die, will be sent either to a place of happiness or misery ; and I am aware that if I continue a Hindoo my soul must go to a place of torment, because the Shasters do not provide a Saviour, and my sins have been such that I need a Saviour.’ Upon another occasion he said, ‘What the Hindoos worship cannot be Gods, for every thing regarding their deities is impure ; and if there is a God, surely it is the Christian’s God, holy and pure, as described in the Testament.’ He touched upon several passages of the Testament, proving the holy life and walk of our God and Saviour. He was directed to the Rev. Krishna Mohana Banerjea : he removed from the society of his persecutors, was instructed about two or three months, and afterwards baptized. Are any dear Christian brethren engaged in distributing tracts, or preaching in these small chapels, let them read this and take courage, and may we pray for a blessing upon every tract and every sermon or exhortation. The Lord has been pleased to bless this year, with extraordinary instances of His infinite love and mercy—may He continue them for his own name and merit’s sake, “till the whole earth is filled with His glory.” Amen.

NOTES OF A JOURNEY FROM THE BANKS OF THE
JUMNA TO BOMBAY.

I started from the banks of the Jumna on the 27th of November, and arrived here this morning, (Bombay, Jan. 12, 1837,) just in time for the Hugh Lindsay, which will start on the 18th instant, and in which I have been lucky enough to secure a cabin. I had imagined that I could travel comfortably all the way to this place dawk, so that you can conceive the disappoint-

ment I experienced, when on arriving at Saugor I found bearers no longer on the road. By dint of great exertions, I, after three or four days, secured thirty bearers, and these took me to Hoshingabad in five days, distance 150 miles; beyond that, they would not and could not move, and as that country cannot produce a single bearer, I was under the necessity of abandoning the palanquin, and take to riding a tattoo, after sacrificing a considerable part of what I deemed comforts. From Hoshingabad to Poonah I rode my tat, which was a good strong brute, a distance I count of about 500 miles. Saugor I found a most miserable-looking place, the soil as black as soot, the grass parched up, and the surface of the earth covered with large black stones. The lake is the only redeeming quality about the station, and that is certainly very pretty and picturesque; the houses bad and low, and the station, though a large one, as I passed through it, seemed deserted. The country between Saugor and Hoshingabad is wild in the extreme, nothing but a succession of low hills one after the other, all clothed with trees, chiefly teak, but none that I saw large, and the valleys below occasionally slightly cultivated. The villages were very far apart, and the country appeared deserted. You may go for miles without meeting a human being, or in fact any thing endowed with life, not even a bird to vary the dreadful stillness that prevails; the same remark holds good throughout the whole of the country subsequently passed through, so that there will be no necessity to recur to the remark. At Hoshingabad I was most kindly received and did not get away till the 11th. The next station reached was Asseerghur, distant 150 miles. I arrived there on the 16th, and was most kindly entertained by the officers of the 3rd Bombay Native Infantry. I found them in temporary bungalows down below. In the hot weather they reside in the fort, which is so high as to keep them out of the range of the hot winds. Our system of marching was this, after taking a cup of coffee, started at day-light and rode till 10 A.M., spent two

hours at breakfast under a tree, and starting again, rode till 4 P. M. a snail's pace all the way. I thus advanced at the rate of about 25 miles a day. A table servant whom I had secured was mounted on a good strong tat, and the baggage came on by others. As I had no tents, I dined and slept under trees, preferring such shelter to the filthiness of native houses. The country round Asserghur is bleak and blasted to a degree; the only thing worth seeing is the fort: from below it does not appear very imposing, but when after a most steep and laborious ascent, you arrive at the top, you feel how strong it is. A march from Asserghur is Borhanpore, a very large city, inhabited chiefly by Borahs, a singular sect of Mussulmans. In the cemetery are the tombs of three of their priests, well executed and worth looking at: they are square buildings with a dome at top made of the finest chunam, so as to look like marble; the ornamented work in the interior is very rich and in good taste, fountains play all round, and the terrace is paved with painted tiles. In an old palace are some marble baths whose beauties are not quite concealed by the heaps of rubbish which surround them; they are fast going to decay. Here the Taptee is now scarcely knee deep. I left Borhanpore on the 19th; the bleak, deserted, parched-up face of the country continued day after day, with nothing to vary or to relieve the scene, and being all alone, you may fancy how solitary I found it, and what a painful depression of spirits it created. On the 22nd I reached the celebrated excavations of Ajunta, so they are called, but they are situated some six miles from that town; they are certainly wonderful, not as abounding in any thing in the shape of either sculpture or painting that can be compared with the productions of Europe, either of former or of the present time, but they are wonderful because they are evidently the result of considerable skill and immense labour, and were executed at a period so remote as to be beyond the reach even of tradition. The hills in which the excavations have been made are evidently of volcanic

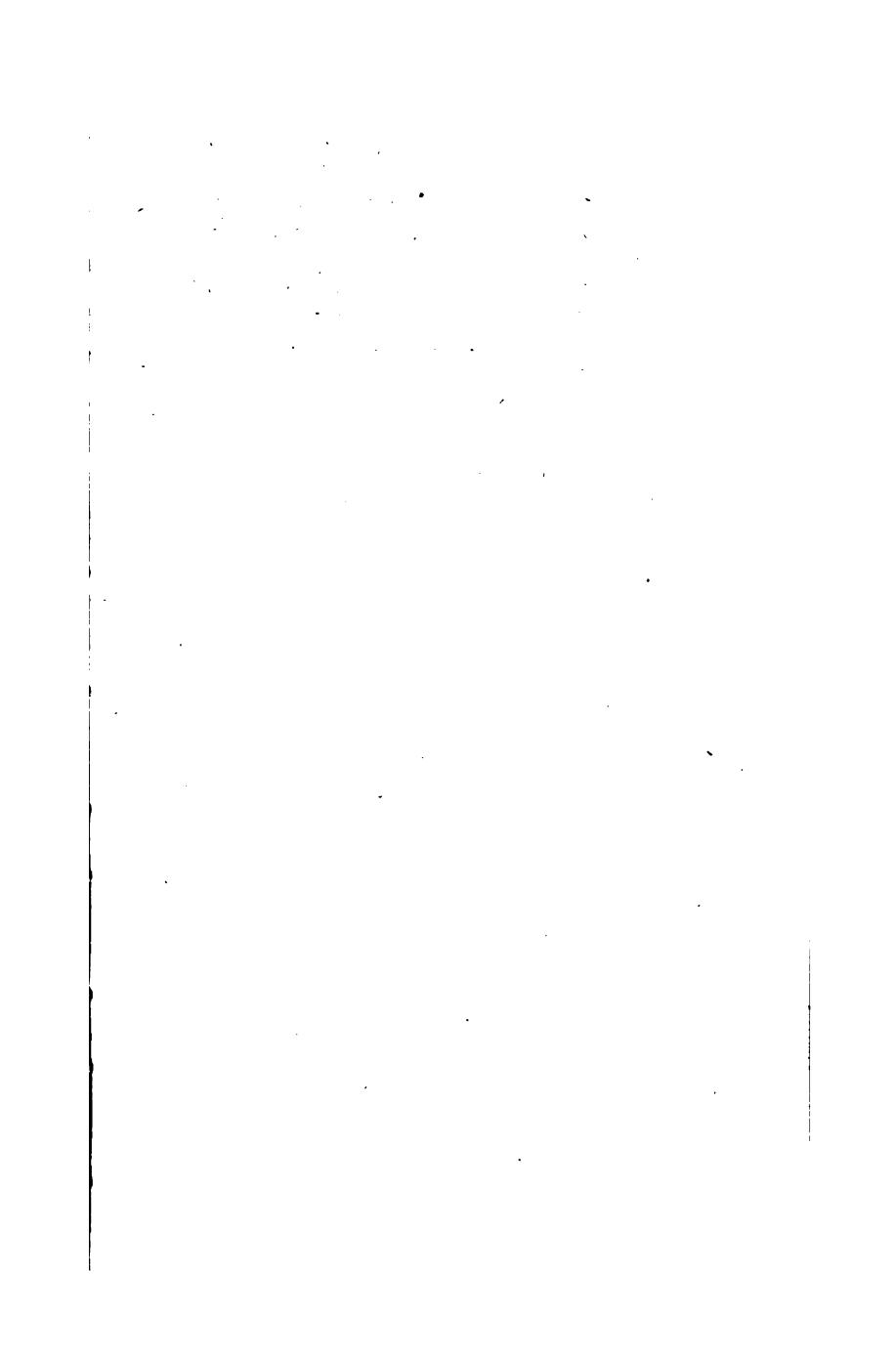
origin. Viewed from the centre of the large arched cave, the whole scene before you puts you in mind of a horse-shoe, the tongue of land jutting out is like the frog of a horse's foot ; one end of the shoe is formed by a water-fall of 120 feet perpendicular height, (here the stream has its rise) the other by an abrupt turn of the hill. Some of the caves are inaccessible. I saw nineteen only ; they are situated about half-way up the hill, and are cut out of the solid rock. They vary as much in size as in superiority of execution. Some are coarsely finished, others scarcely commenced, others again are most elaborately finished ; I have no room to give a minute description. The whole interior was at one time painted, and in some of the caves the paintings are still quite fresh. The ceilings were painted in divisions and a circle in the centre, the whole representing fruits and flowers of every description, among them I observed clusters of grapes with little bacchuses entwined among the leaves ; this is not an Indian idea ! Many of the figures on the walls are very well done, and put you in mind of the copies of the cartoons of Raphael, the countenances are Grecian, and not a bit like the people of this country. Negroes are also strikingly depicted. I also observed among the ornamental parts of one room a female figure very well sculptured, standing on a Dolphin. Where did the natives get this idea ? The caves are generally square, at the end opposite the entrance is a recess in which is the large god Jum, always coarsely carved, and within on the sides are excavated cells in which the priests resided, like the monks of Europe I suppose, for these excavations were undoubtedly meant as places for retirement and devotion. All the large colossal figures are in bad taste, coarsely executed and out of all proportion, but the ornamental carving of some of the columns, and the small figures of men and animals on the base and capital, are exceedingly well done. From Ajunto I went to Assaye and spent my Christmas day on the field of battle. Not a vestige of the fight remains, but

some broken pieces of cannon. My dinner was but a poor one, consisting of doll rotee and brandy paunie. On the 27th I reached Aurungabad and remained till the 2nd. The city though built by Aurungzebe is now in ruins ; the only building it contains worthy of notice is the Begum's tomb, which is nothing to those who have seen Delhi and Agra. The city is well supplied with water, which is brought from the hills, a distance of eight miles, by means of an aqueduct. The climate is said to be good, and the oranges and grapes delicious. I went to see the celebrated fort of Dowlatabad and the caves of Ellora ; both of them you know well from description, I will therefore only say that the excavations of Ellora are in my opinion far inferior to those of Ajunta ; the latter have in fact never been properly examined or described.

The character is, I think, the same as that on the Allahabad and Delhi columns? These letters are particularly distinct on the face of the large arched cave at Ajunta, but appears to have escaped observation. Two other inscriptions have been copied several times, but I do not know the result. From Aurungabad I rode to Ahmednuggur, and soon got into a good road, which continued all the way to Bombay. I made no stay at Ahmednuggur, but pushed on to Poonah, where I arrived on the 8th, and started again on the 11th, arriving here (Bombay) on the 12th of January. From Talla to Paunell the road is excellent, and hungaloes all the way for travellers. At Poonah I got into a phaeton, which brought me to Paunell in the evening, a distance of seventy miles ; there I got into a boat and found myself here in the morning. At Cuclea, half way between Poonah and Paunell, is another arched cave much larger than those either at Ajunta or Ellora ; the proportions are good, but the columns, with the exception of the capitals, coarsely executed ; the ribs of the arched ceiling are of wood, which is strange. The Bole Ghaut road is splendid, and the scenery very picturesque.

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The first of these is the fact that the
 government has been unable to
 maintain a stable currency. This
 has led to a loss of confidence
 in the government and a
 consequent loss of support.
 The second is the fact that
 the government has been unable
 to maintain a stable economy.
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 The third is the fact that
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